CONTINUING THE LEGEND THAT IS

ADVENTURE COMICS®

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NO. 492
OCT.

BRAND-NEW!! SHAZAM! THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL BATTLES THE FORCES OF SATAN!

GIFFEN / DeCarlo

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A LEGION of SUPER-HEROES CLASSIC: SUPERGIRL REJECTED FOR MEMBERSHIP!

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No. 492 October, 1982

*** Co-Editors: Dick Giordano and Carl Gafford ***

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SHAZAM!

GATHERED BY SATAN, THE CONFEDERATION OF HELL--IBAC, BARBAC, DARKLING, AND MASTER MAN--WERE BEING DEFEATED BY THE FORCES OF GOOD... UNTIL MASTER MAN USED HIS POWER TO CALL UP FOUR EVIL GODS TO OPPOSE THE MARVEL FAMILY AND KID ETERNITY!

CAP--IF YOU LIKE, I CAN CALL ON SOME GOOD DEITIES TO HELP!

THANKS, KID, BUT WE CAN FIGHT OUR OWN BATTLES! EVEN THIS...

J-8787

...BATTLE with the GODS!

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UNNNFFF!

THIS PUNY MORTAL WILL EASILY FALL BEFORE THE MIGHT OF *SET*, LORD OF THE NILE, SLAYER OF OSIRIS!

NOW TELL US WHAT HORUS AND ISIS FINALLY DID TO YOU, AARDVARK-SNOUT!

WHUUUFF!

HA! I, CERNOBOG OF THE SLAVS, AM OPPOSED BY A MERE BOY!?

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW *MERE* I AM!

WELL, CHIN UP, OLD MAN! MAYBE I WON'T HURT YOU *TOO* BADLY!

WHAT SORCERY IS THIS--?--UH!!

WHAT? A GIRL? I CAN SQUASH HER LIKE A BUG!

BUG, YOU SAY? TEZCATLIPOCA

I'VE READ HOW YOU BUGGED *QUETZALCOATL*! NOW I'LL BUG *YOU*!

OWWFF!

AS THE EVIL GODS ATTACK, KID ETERNITY'S GHOSTLY GUARDIAN KEEP RUSHES TO AID HIS YOUNG CHARGE...

KID, THAT'S ANGRA MAINYU, OR AHRIMAN, THE EVIL GOD OF THE ANCIENT PERSIANS AND THE MODERN PARSEES! HE STILL HAS BELIEVERS, WHICH MAKES HIM THE STRONGEST!

QUICK--CALL SOMEONE TO STOP HIM!

NO, KEEP!*

*KEEP IS A SPIRIT BEING WHO CAN ONLY BE SEEN AND TALKED TO BY KID ETERNITY! — D.G.

CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS RIGHT! THIS IS MY FIGHT, AND FOR ONCE, I'M HANDLING IT ON MY OWN!

BUT I WILL MAKE MYSELF IMMATERIAL AND INVISIBLE! ETERNITY!

WHRAAAM!

USING HIS MAGIC WORD ETERNITY, THE KID TAKES ON HIS SPIRIT FORM...

I KNOW THEE, KID ETERNITY AND MISTER KEEPER--AND EVEN IN SPIRIT FORM I CAN DISCERN THEE!

YOU CAN, EH? THEN TRY AND FOLLOW ME! ETERNITY!

WHAT NOW, KID? I KNOW WE'RE GOING THROUGH TIME--

--BUT YOU'RE NOT SURE WHERE, RIGHT?

USING THEIR TIME-TRAVEL ABILITIES, KID ETERNITY AND KEEP TRAVEL BACK TO TIME'S DARKEST ORIGINS...

WHRAAAM

HERE WE ARE, KEEP!

BUT EVERYTHING IS BLACK! DON'T YOU KNOW--

3

--THAT I AM A GOD OF DARKNESS? EVIDENTLY HE DID NOT, OR HE WOULD NEVER HAVE LED ME HERE--

--IN UTTER GLOOM, WHERE MY POWER IS AT ITS HEIGHT!

FOR PETE'S SAKE, KID, LET'S GO TO SOME OTHER TIME! AHRIMAN'S ONE GUY WHO CAN BLAST YOU EVEN IN YOUR SPIRIT FORM!

YOU'LL HAVE TO AIM BETTER THAN THAT, BUSTER!

DON'T WORRY, KEEP! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! AND ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR--

-- THE BIG BANG!*

GREAT PEARLY GATES! THE BLAST THAT STARTED THE *UNIVERSE*! IT CAN'T HARM US IN OUR *SPIRIT* FORMS, BUT LOOK AT *AHRIMAN*!

THE BIG BANG! SCIENTISTS THEORIZE THAT OUR UNIVERSE HAD ITS ORIGIN AS A GIGANTIC *PRIMAL ATOM* WHICH EXPLODED IN A CATACLYSMIC *BLAST* SENDING MATTER OUTWARD INTO SPACE. STARS, PLANETS, EVEN GALAXIES TODAY STILL ARE MOVING OUTWARD FROM THAT SINGLE POINT.

THE LIGHT!

EEEEYYAAAAAAAAA!

*THERE'S NO SOUND IN EMPTY SPACE, SO NO "BANG" IS HEARD. THE KID, MR. KEEPER, AND AHRIMAN COMMUNICATE THROUGH THEIR MYSTIC POWERS.

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CLEVER, KID! YOU LED THAT EVIL GOD TO A PLACE THAT SEEMED PERFECT FOR HIM--BUT ONLY JUST BEFORE THE GREATEST BURST OF LIGHT EVER!

THAT'S IT, KEEP! THE LESSONS I HAD WITH EINSTEIN, NEWTON AND OTHER GREAT SCIENTISTS SURE CAME IN HANDY!

TIME TO GO BACK TO 1982! ETERNITY!

THRAAAAM!

MEANTIME, THE MARVEL FAMILY IS STILL FIGHTING THE OTHER EVIL GODS...

AMONG OTHER THINGS, I AM A FIRE-GOD! I SHALL TURN YOU TO A CINDER, GIRL!

I DON'T FEEL LIKE BEING A CINDERELLA!

SO--TAKE IT BACK.

WHOOOOOSSHH

YIIIEEEE! I AM BEING SCORCHED BY MY OWN FLAME!

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MISERABLE FEMALE! I SHALL TEAR OUT YOUR HEART, AS MY PRIESTS TORE THE HEARTS FROM SACRIFICIAL VICTIMS!

YOU CAN TRY--

--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO *CATCH* ME FIRST!

UNNFF! *MISSED!*

THAT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO KAYO EVEN A *GOD!*

AND EVEN AS THIS HAPPENS, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. IS FACING HIS ADVERSARY...

RASH BOY! FOR INCURRING MY WRATH, ACCEPT THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT -- I VISIT UPON YOU ALL THE PLAGUES OF HUMANKIND!

EVERY ILLNESS KNOWN WILL WRACK YOUR BODY!

UH-OH! I--I--AH--

CHOOOOOO

SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU--I'M IMMUNE TO DISEASE! ALL YOU DID WAS IRRITATE MY NOSE AND CAUSE THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SNEEZE!
RAK
WHICH LEAVES YOU WIDE OPEN FOR A KNOCKOUT PUNCH!

AND WHAT OF CAPTAIN MARVEL HIMSELF?
SO YOU DARE RESIST THE POWER OF SET? THEN PREPARE TO BE TORN ASUNDER!
COME AHEAD! I'M ALL-- SET!

AS I HOPED--BY MARSHALLING ALL THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, STAMINA OF ATLAS, AND POWER OF ZEUS, I WAS ABLE TO TAKE HIS CHARGE!
KRAAAM!

WHAT-- HAPPENED?

SIMPLE-- I HAD YOU OUTNUMBERED -- THREE GODS TO ONE!

WHOPP

BUT DON'T WORRY! THIS SHOULD STOP THE FAN EFFECT FELLY!

THE GODS HAVE FAILED US!

LET THEM RETURN TO STYGIA!★

I'LL HAVE TO CALL SOMEONE ELSE AND...

MAN TO BOY, YOU MEAN, STRIPLING! IT WILL ONLY TAKE ONE BLOW--!

RIGHT--

--AND HERE IT IS!

AND NOW AS THE THREE MARVELS ARE BUSY, TOO...

OOOWW!

EEEYOWW!

MARVELS HERE...

MARVELS HERE

...MARVELS MARVELS EVERYWHERE

OOHHH!

SUDDENLY, JUST AS THE FOUR VILLAINS ARE DEFEATED, THE FURY OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE FILL THE AIR.

SAVE US-- AIEEE!

NO, SATAN NO!

NEIL! MCLEY!

ARE THEY *REALLY* GONE FOR GOOD THIS TIME?

--BUT I THOUGHT THAT ABOUT *MASTER MAN* ONCE--AND HE CAME BACK!

SATAN THINKS THEY'RE OF ANY USE WE'LL SEE THEM AGAIN!

AND WE'LL BE READY TO WHIP THEM *AGAIN*...ANY TIME THEY CARE TO CHALLENGE US!

AQUAMAN RETURNS TO ATLANTIS... WITHIN THE GREAT DOMED CITY, HIS PEOPLE WAIT AND WATCH! THEN, AS HE DRAWS NEARER...

THEY SEE HIS FACE... A FACE THAT MIRRORS HIS FRUSTRATION AND ANXIETY... AND THEY KNOW THAT HIS SEARCH HAS BEEN IN VAIN... THEY KNOW THAT THEIR CAPTURED QUEEN HAS **NOT** BE[illegible]

AQUAMAN

"THE TRAIL OF THE RING!"

NOW, AS AQUAMAN WANDERS THROUGH ATLANTIS, HIS MIND DRIFTS BACK...BACK TO THAT DAY WHEN THE NIGHTMARE BEGAN...

...HE REMEMBERS THE WILD, SWIRLING WATERS IN WHICH HE AND HIS FAMILY

...HE IS HAUNTED BY THE MEMORY OF MERA'S SCREAM, AS SHE WAS DRAGGED AWAY BY THE CREATURES HE COULD NOT CLEARLY SEE...

THEN, HIS THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED AS...

AQUAMAN! I'VE PERFECTED THE ANTIDOTE! I CAN NOW TRANSFORM OUR PEOPLE BACK INTO WATER-BREATHERS! ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS YOUR APPROVAL

SOME OTHER TIME, DR. VULKO. RIGHT NOW I MUST SPEAK TO MY FIRST DEPUTY! WHERE CAN HE BE FOUND?

BECAUSE YOU LEFT ATLANTIS UNDER HIS COMMAND, HE'S DECIDED TO USE THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM AS HIS HEADQUARTERS! YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND HIM THERE!

THANK YOU!.. EXCUSE ME! I MUST SEE HIM AT ONCE!!

IF ANY WORD ABOUT MERA... A RANSOM NOTE OR ANYTHING...HAS BEEN RECEIVED, MY FIRST DEPUTY WILL KNOW ABOUT IT!

SURELY...

NO THERE'S BEEN NO WORD OF MERA! I'M SORRY, AQUAMAN...

THEN I MUST CONTINUE MY SEARCH! I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AFTER SEEING AQUALAD!

NARKRAN, I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE ON AS TEMPORARY RULER! ALL MAJOR DECISIONS SHALL BE YOURS TO MAKE!

I SUGGEST THAT YOU SPEAK WITH DR. VULKO! HE HAS A PROJECT OF SOME SORT THAT HE WANTS APPROVED!

I'LL SEE DR. VULKO IMMEDIATELY! GOOD LUCK, SIR!

THERE IS ONE CLUE! THE RING THAT ONE OF HER CAPTORS WORE! BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE... WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A RING?..

WAIT A MINUTE! ZANCOL, THE OLD MAN! PERHAPS HE CAN HELP ME! I'LL GO TO HIM AT ONCE!

ZANCOL! I WISH TO TALK TO YOU!

IT IS SAID THAT YOU HAVE TRAVELED NEARLY EVERYWHERE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR! TELL ME -- IN ALL YOUR TRAVELS, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF A RING WITH A FIVE-SIDED STONE?

FIVE-SIDED STONE?

WHY, YES, I *HAVE* SEEN SUCH A RING! IN FACT, I'VE SEEN MANY SUCH RINGS! NEARLY EVERYONE IN THE LAND OF THE MAARZONS OWNS A RING WITH A FIVE-SIDED STONE!

"AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE MAARZONS ARE LITTLE MORE THAN SAVAGES. AND THEY ARE ALSO A VERY SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE!"

"THEY CONSIDER THEIR FIVE-SIDED STONES TO BE SOMETHING SACRED. AND THEY USE THE RINGS AS CHARMS TO WARD OFF ALL SORTS OF EVIL!"

...TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE DEPTHS! THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I PLAN TO DO! IT'S WHAT I MUST DO! TIME IS ONE THING I CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE!

BUT AQUAMAN...IT AIN'T SAFE! THE DEPTHS ARE UNEXPLORED! THERE'S NO TELLING *WHAT* DANGERS YOU WILL MEET!

THEN, **THEY** MAY WELL BE THE ONES I'M AFTER...THE ONES WHO HAVE MERA! AS I REMEMBER THE MAARZON COLONY IS QUITE SOME DISTANCE FROM HERE!

YES A THREE DAY JOURNEY AT THE LEAST!

UNLESS I GO BY WAY OF "THE DEPTHS"! THEN IT WOULD ONLY BE A ONE-DAY TRIP! ISN'T THAT TRUE?

YES THAT IS SO! BUT SURELY YOU DON'T PLAN TO...

ME DELAYS HIS DEPARTURE ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO VISIT AQUALAD AND AQUAGIRL, WHO IS CARING FOR AQUABABY...

GEE I SURE WISH I COULD GO WITH YOU!

SORRY, MINNOW... YOU'RE NOT WELL ENOUGH!

THEN, THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

HE HAS NOT HAD SUFFICIENT REST... WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT HIS SENSE OF LOSS DOES NOT CAUSE HIM TO ABANDON ALL CAUTION!

HOURS LATER, AQUAMAN ENTERS A DARK, FOREBODING VALLEY...

SO — THESE ARE THE DEPTHS! THEY'RE EVERYTHING THEY'RE REPORTED TO BE! AND THERE'S AN EERIE SILENCE... I KNOW OF NO OTHER PART OF THE OCEAN THAT IS THIS QUIET!

THE FURTHER I TRAVEL, THE DARKER IT GETS! VERY LITTLE SUNLIGHT REACHES DOWN TO THIS DEPTH!

OH WELL... I SUPPOSE I REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! THIS PLACE MAY SEEM FOREBODING, BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAT IS ACTUALLY THREATENING MY LIFE..

...OR, AT LEAST, SO FAR THERE IS NOTHING!!

BUT EVEN NOW, STRANGE GNOME-LIKE CREATURES STAND ON A NEAR-BY RIDGE, STARING DOWN AT THE LONE FIGURE WHO PASSES THROUGH THE VALLEY...

THEY CHATTER IN SHRILL VOICES AND WAVE THEIR HANDS ABOUT WILDLY...

THE CREATURE STEPS AWAY FROM THE [illegible] AND ANTENNAE WITH [illegible] ILLUMINATIONS AND [illegible]

SOON SMALL [illegible]-JAWED FISH WITH SIMILAR ANIMAL LIKE FORMS...

WA[illegible] THESE FISH GATHER IN FRONT OF THE GNOME-LIKE CREATURES...

THOSE *FISH!* SMALL BUT WITH *HUGE* JAWS! THEY LOOK ALMOST LIKE PIRANHAS! AND... AND THEY'RE HEADING THIS WAY!!

THEY'RE ATTACKING! AND THAT CREATURE BEHIND THEM SEEMS TO BE DIRECTING THE ATTACK!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW...

...GOT TO USE MY TELEPATHIC POWERS TO TURN THOSE PINT-SIZE ATTACKERS AROUND.

THERE'S SO MANY OF 'EM... I'LL NEED ALL THE POWER I CAN MUSTER, IF I'M GOING TO AFFECT *ALL* OF THEM!

HUGE TELEPATHIC WAVES RADIATE FROM THE SEA KING'S BRAIN, AS HE STRAINS MIGHTILY, CONCENTRATING ON BUT ONE THOUGHT...

...

...IT'S NOT WORKING! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THEY'RE ALMOST ON TOP OF ME!!

ONLY ONE TH··

···D--RIDE... AND
···ARD!!

I MUST GET AWAY!
I MUST!!

AQUAMAN RACES DEEPER
INTO THE VALLEY...UNAWARE THAT THE GREATEST
DANGER LIES NOT BEHIND HIM, BUT AHEAD... IN *PART II* OF

"THE TRAIL OF THE RING"

PART 2

"THE TRAIL OF THE RING!"

DEADLY FISH COMING EVER NEARER... THEIR JAWS SNAPPING WILDLY AS THEY CLOSE IN FOR THE KILL...

THEY'RE SLOWING DOWN... HESITATING! IT'S AS THOUGH THEY'RE AFRAID TO FOLLOW ME ANY FURTHER!

THERE THEY GO—THEY'RE TURNING BACK! HAVEN'T GOT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHY THEY WERE AFTER ME! BUT, I'M GLAD THAT IT'S ALL OVER!

BUT IF THEY WERE AFRAID TO FOLLOW ME... THAT COULD MEAN THAT EVEN WORSE DANGERS LIE AHEAD, AND I MAY NOT BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME... HEY! IT'S GETTING RATHER DARK...

CAN'T OUT-RUN THEM! BUT.. BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ESCAPE!

PERHAPS, IF I SET UP A WHIRLPOOL, I COULD,.. NO! WAIT!

...I CAN HARDLY SEE! MUST BE ENTERING THE DEEPEST PART OF THE DEPTHS! IT'S STARTING TO GET REALLY COLD, TOO!

AN HOUR PASSES

...GETTING DARKER! AND ITS FREEZING COLD! CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE... HEY! WHAT'S THAT?!

A STRANGE GLEAM OF LIGHT... COMING FROM BEYOND THAT RIDGE! WHERE THERE'S *THAT* MUCH LIGHT, THERE IS SURE TO BE *SOME* HEAT.. BOT TO GET THERE!

A *COLONY* OF SOME SORT! BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO LIVE IN THESE WATERS?

...STRANGE SIGHT WOULDS BEFORE THE SEA KING... BEAUTIFUL GRE... 2-LOOKING ...AND ..., ...ING SEA BEASTS *LIVING TOGETHER* ...ONE COLONY...

THOSE "MONSTERS" ARE PHOSPHORESCENT! *THEY'RE* THE SOURCE OF THE LIGHT I SAW! THERE'S *HEAT*, TOO!

SEEMS UNUSUAL THAT THESE TWO GROUPS CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY! BUT THEN, PERHA... THE MONSTERS HAVE BEEN DOMESTICATED!

STRANGE! MY BEING HERE DOESN'T SEEM TO [illegible] AT ALL. NO ONE'S EVEN [illegible] APPARENTLY THEY HAVE NO FEAR OF [illegible]

JUST THEN A WILD, PIERCING SCREAM SHATTERS THE SILENCE...

ONE OF THE BEASTS HAS GONE MAD! HE'S ATTACKING THAT GIRL!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? CAN'T THEY HEAR HER SCREAMING? WHY DON'T THEY DO SOMETHING? WHY WON'T THEY HELP HER!?

WHAT IN?..

C'MON! DON'T JUST STAND HERE! THAT GIRL NEEDS HELP! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? SHE..

NO GOOD! THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND MY LANGUAGE!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME!

LEAPING FORWARD SWINGING AT A SPEED THAT ONLY HE CAN ATTAIN...

THE SEA KING STRIKES THE MONSTER'S STRANGE HORN.. AND WITH A SHARP CRACK, THE HORN IS BROKEN...

THEN TURNING AGAIN, HE SWINGS BACK IN TOWARD THE BEAST AND...

THOK

FOR SEVERAL SILENT SECONDS, THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE STAND STARING AT THE NOW DEAD "MONSTER"...

AAARRGH!

THESE PEOPLE... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?? THEY LOOK PUZZLED... PERPLEXED...

THEN, SLOWLY, THEY TURN THEIR GAZE TOWARD AQUAMAN... AND THEIR EYES ARE FILLED WITH ANGER AND HATE...

METHODICALLY, THEY STALK HIM...

HEY! NOW JUST A MINUTE! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT DO YOU...

THEIR EYES...THEY LOOK AS IF THEY WANT TO KILL ME! I'VE GOT TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

THESE PEOPLE ARE PUNY! SHOULD BE A CINCH TO BREAK MY WAY THROUGH THEM AND GET BACK OUT TO THE OPEN SEA!

THIS FELLA'S GRIP... LIKE A VISE! CAN'T... GET FREE...

ALL THESE PEOPLE... THEY'RE ALL AMAZINGLY STRONG! THEY'VE GOT ME... AND I CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT!

BUT WHAT'S THE IDEA ABOUT IT? WHY DID THEY SUDDENLY ATTACK ME? WAS IT BECAUSE I KILLED THAT MONSTER??

THESE COSTUMES... THIS FURNITURE... ALL SO STRANGE... LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE! AND YET... THE WHOLE GET-UP SEEMS TO SUGGEST... A COURTROOM!

AM I ON TRIAL?

DID I COMMIT SOME CRIME WHEN I KILLED THAT MONSTER??

I WAS TRYING TO SAVE THAT GIRL'S LIFE! CAN'T THESE PEOPLE REALIZE THAT? OR DON'T THEY CARE ABOUT THAT?!

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3 "THE TRAIL OF THE RING!"

THE PEOPLE STARE AT THEIR PRISONER... SOME SILENT, OTHERS TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES... THEN, ONE MAN POINTS AN ACCUSING FINGER AT AQUAMAN, AND...

GFTHG AE RFTNMK LPTHNGH IE WRTNBFR !

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT! SOUNDS LIKE MY FRIEND HERE IS ASKING A QUESTION... BUT WHAT DOES HE EXPECT ME TO DO! DOES HE REALLY THINK I UNDERSTAND HIS LANGUAGE!!

JUDGING FROM THE LOOKS I'VE BEEN GETTING, NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT ME!

EVEN THE GIRL WHOSE LIFE I SAVED SEEMS TO BE AGAINST ME!

BUT WHY! NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE! SHOULD SHE... HEY! WHAT'S THAT!!

LOOKS LIKE A WEAPON OF SOME KIND... AND HE'S WHEELING IT THIS WAY!!

IT'S POINTED RIGHT AT ME! HAVE THEY ALREADY REACHED THEIR VERDICT? ARE THEY GOING TO PERFORM THE EXECUTION RIGHT HERE AND NOW??

WITH THE FLICK OF A SWITCH, SUDDEN PAIN EXPLODES IN AQUAMAN'S BRAIN...

WHEN, THE PAIN SUBSIDES, AND STRANGE WISPY SHAPES APPEAR BEFORE THE SEA KING...

THAT MACHINE ...IT'S AFFECTED MY VISION...

STRANGE SHAPES... TAKING TO FORM TOGETHER... INTO A SCENE OF SOME SORT! THESE PEOPLE ARE INDUCING SOME KIND OF... OF AN HALLUCINATION!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE SEA KING IS "SHOWN" SCENES OF THE "MONSTERS"... HE SEES HOW THEY PROVIDE THE HEAT AND THE LIGHT FOR THE GENTLE PEOPLES CROPS...

NO WONDER ITS A CRIME TO KILL ONE OF THOSE CREATURES! THESE PEOPLE NEED THEM! WITHOUT THEM, THEY COULDN'T SURVIVE...

WHEN A HIDEOUS SCENE... A BEAST DEVOURING ONE OF THE PEOPLE, WHILE OTHER PEOPLE STAND NEAR-BY AND DO NOTHING...

APPARENTLY THE MONSTERS PROVIDE THE PEOPLE WITH HEAT AND LIGHT AND IN EXCHANGE, THE PEOPLE ALLOW SOME AMONG THEM TO SERVE AS FOOD FOR THE BEASTS! IN THAT WAY THE TWO GROUPS BENEFIT ONE ANOTHER!

WHEW! WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY OF LIFE! AND YET... IT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE THESE PEOPLE KNOW!

JUST THEN...

UH-OH! THE SHOW'S OVER... AND HERE WE GO AGAIN! WONDER WHERE THEY'RE TAKING ME NOW...

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND! THEY'RE TELLING ME ABOUT THEIR SOCIETY, AS A MEANS OF EXPLAINING MY CRIME...

SO FAR, THESE BOYS HAVEN'T LOOSENED THEIR GRIP AT ALL... BUT...

A CELL! THEY'RE PLANNING TO HAVE ME ROT IN JAIL! GOTTA GET AWAY--I *MUST* BE FREE... FOR MERA'S SAKE, IF NOT MY OWN!

THEY'RE EASING UP! MUST BE CONCENTRATING ON GETTING THE DOOR OPEN! I'VE GOTTA DO THIS *FAST!*

WAIT A MOMENT!

NOW

CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BUT THEY'LL BE ON TOP OF ME IN JUST A COUPLE OF SECONDS, UNLESS... AHH, THE HORN! STILL RIGHT WHERE I DROPPED IT!

OKAY I'M READY FOR YOU NOW! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA GO THROUGH WITH THIS, [illegible]

GUESS THAT ANSWERS THAT!

THIS CLUB HAS PUT A SCARE INTO 'EM! THEY'RE MORE CAUTIOUS THAT MAKES THINGS A BIT EASIER FOR ME!. NOW IF I CAN JUST AVOID THEIR GRASPS..

OH,NO,YOU DON'T! NO FAIR CREEPING UP FROM BEHIND--

UH-OH! CAUGHT 'IM IN THE FACE! DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT! HOPE HE'S NOT TOO BADLY HURT!

THAT'S ONE THING WORKING AGAINST ME! I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO PURPOSELY HARM THESE PEOPLE! THEY'RE *NOT* CRIMINALS! IN FACT AS FAR AS *THEY'RE* CONCERNED *I'M* THE VILLAIN!

MORE PEOPLE - COMING FROM EVERY DIRECTION! LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE ON THE *WHOLE TOWN!!*

AS AQUAMAN PREPARES TO FACE EVEN GREATER ODDS, LET US RETURN TO THE GREEN DOMED CITY, WHERE, AT THIS MOMENT..

HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

I'M LEAVING! MY ARM'S OKAY... AND I KNOW THAT AQUAMAN NEEDS ME!

. YOU MUST STAY FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE WEEKS... OR YOUR ARM MAY *NEVER* HEAL PROPERLY!

. . THAT'S A CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE! I'VE GOTTA FIND AQUAMAN... GET OUT OF MY WAY!

NO! *GUARDS!*... HELP ME RESTRAIN THIS PATIENT! NURSE, PREPARE A TRANQUILIZER!

STRUGGLING TO BREAK FREE, AQUALAD SUDDENLY SLIPS, FALLS BACKWARD, AND...

IS HE ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR?

YES, I THINK SO! WE'D BETTER GET HIM BACK INTO HIS ROOM, SO WE CAN FIND OUT FOR SURE IF HE'S OKAY!

BUT THAT'S ENOUGH OF ATLANTIS FOR THE TIME BEING. NOW, LET'S GET BACK TO WHERE THE BIG ACTION IS...

I FEEL LIKE A BRUTE! EVEN THOUGH THEY OUT-NUMBER ME IT STILL DOESN'T SEEM FAIR USING A CLUB ON UNARMED PEOPLE!

CAN'T KEEP THIS UP INDEFINITELY! SOMEONE'S BOUND TO SCAB HOLD OF ME SOONER OR LATER!

IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME OTHER WAY TO... HEY! WAIT! PERHAPS I CAN USE MY TELEPATHIC POWER TO CONTROL THE *MONSTERS!*

CAN'T USE MY TELEPATHY FULL FORCE WHILE I'VE ALSO GOT THESE *PEOPLE* TO CONTEND WITH, BUT...

IT'S WORKING! THAT ONES HEADING THIS WAY! AND NOW...

ALL RIGHT, GET BACK...OR ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR PRECIOUS MONSTERS WILL BE KILLED!

THIS LITTLE BLUFF HAD BETTER WORK!

THIS TIME BACKING OFF! THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND MY WORDS BUT THEY SURE GOT THE MESSAGE!

GOOD! THE PEOPLE ARE STILL AFRAID TO MOVE... AFRAID I'LL HARM HIM! LOOKS LIKE I'M HOME FREE!

SHORTLY... NOW WE'VE GOME DISTANCE FROM THE COLONY...

AHH, THERE'S STORM!

OKAY, BEAST... THIS IS WHERE WE PART COMPANY! YOU CAN HEAD BACK TO YOUR QUAINT LITTLE HOME TOWN!

AND SO, HE RIDES ON...

HE HAS ESCAPED FROM A STRANGE, UNBELIEVABLE WORLD... BUT EVEN STRANGER WORLDS LIE AHEAD. NOW, THE SEA GROWS WARMER... THE DARKNESS IS GIVING WAY TO LIGHT. HE IS LEAVING THE "DEPTHS"... SOON HE WILL REACH HIS DESTINATION...

SUPERGIRL

:GASP!: I THOUGHT MY EXISTENCE ON EARTH WAS A DEEP SECRET, BUT YOU KIDS WITH SUPER-POWERS SEEM TO KNOW ALL ABOUT ME! WHO ARE YOU?!!

THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU TO LEARN THE ANSWER, LINDA LEE. ALIAS SUPERGIRL!

AS SUPERGIRL, LINDA LEE IS CONSTANTLY GETTING INTO ONE STARTLING ADVENTURE AFTER ANOTHER! BUT ONE DAY THE SURPRISES COME EVEN QUICKER, AND ARE MORE ASTONISHING, THAN USUAL! A BAFFLING SERIES OF AMAZING ENCOUNTERS HAS THE GIRL OF STEEL WONDERING WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING TO HER! WHO ARE THE THREE STRANGE TEEN-AGERS WHO MYSTERIOUSLY ENTER HER LIFE, AND WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE IN HELPING HER HIDE THE SECRET OF HER REAL IDENTITY? THE ANSWER IS EVEN MORE FANTASTIC THAN SHE COULD POSSIBLY GUESS, AND LEADS HER 1,000 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, TO A STUNNING SURPRISE FINISH IN THE ACTION-A-SECOND ADVENTURE OF...

The THREE SUPER-HEROES!

ONE DAY AS SEVERAL BUSES FILLED WITH CHILDREN FROM THE MIDVALE ORPHANAGE DRIVE TOWARD METROPOLIS...

OH-OH! A HUGE SHIP IS NEARING THE DRAWBRIDGE! THEY'LL RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE SO THE SHIP CAN PASS THROUGH!

INSIDE THE LEADING BUS...

TOO BAD! WE'LL BE DELAYED! YOU KIDS WILL MISS SEEING **SUPERMAN** PERSONALLY OPEN THE **SUPERMAN FAIR** IN METROPOLIS, CELEBRATING SUPERMAN WEEK!

AWWW!

BUT UNKNOWN TO THE OTHER ORPHANS, PASSENGER LINDA LEE IS SECRETLY SUPERGIRL..

EXIT

OUT I GO THROUGH THE EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR, AT SUPER-SPEED, FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE CAN FOLLOW...!

PAUSING BESIDE A RIVER BANK, LINDA TRANSFORMS HERSELF TO THE AMAZING GIRL OF STEEL!

I'LL LEAVE MY OUTER CLOTHING AND WIG HERE, IN THESE BUSHES!

I DON'T WANT THOSE KIDS TO MISS SEEING **SUPERMAN!** THEY'D BE TERRIBLY DISAPPOINTED!

A SPLIT-INSTANT LATER, UNDERWATER...

GOT A FIRM GRIP ON THE RUDDER! NOW TO PULL **DOWNWARD**! HERE GOES!

2

IN THE DRAWBRIDGE CONTROL ROOM...

HEY! L-LOOK!! THAT SHIP HAS SHRUNK, OR SOMETHING!

IT'S...{GULP!}..LOWER IN THE WATER THAN BEFORE! NO NEED TO RAISE THE DRAW-BRIDGE! IT NOW HAS PLENTY OF CLEARANCE!

THE SHIP SPED UNDER THE BRIDGE, LIKE IT WAS JET-PROPELLED!

NOW IT'S RISING TO ITS FORMER HEIGHT AGAIN! IMPOSSIBLE!

SWIFTLY, SUPERGIRL SWIMS UNDER-WATER BACK TO THE RIVER BANK, THEN...

THERE! I'M SHAKING EVERY DROP OF WATER OFF MY COSTUME, AND OUT OF MY HAIR! NOW TO RESUME MY DISGUISE!

SOON, SHE HAS RETURNED AT SUPER-SPEED, UNNOTICED, INTO THE BUS AGAIN, THROUGH THE EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR...

WHAT LUCK! THEY DIDN'T RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE AFTER ALL! WE'LL MAKE THE SUPERMAN FAIR'S OPENING CEREMONIES IN TIME!

LUCK?...THEY'LL NEVER KNOW!!

PRESENTLY...

WOW! WHAT EXCITING SUPERMAN EXHIBITS! WE'LL LEARN ALL ABOUT SUPERMAN!

EXCEPT...HIS SECRET IDENTITY...AND ABOUT HIS COUSIN... ME!

THE PLANET KRYPTON

HOME OF SUPERMAN'S BIRTH WHICH EXPLODED MOMENTS AFTER HE LEFT AS AN INFANT IN A ROCKET SHIP

SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE WHERE HE OFTEN RELAXES. REAL LOCATION, UNKNOWN!

...TO SUPERGIRL'S DRAMATIC DEBUT, THE CHAMPIONS ARE ALL THERE TO SEE MIGHTY

SUPERMAN STAGE AN AMAZING EXHIBITION...

BILLIONS OF VOLTS ARE PASSING THROUGH MY BODY... ENOUGH TO DESTROY AN ORDINARY LIVING THING!

HOLY COW! CAN HE TAKE IT! WHEW!

OFF FLIES SUPERMAN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AMAZING DEMONSTRATION...

SO LONG, EVERYONE! AND THANKS AGAIN FOR HONORING ME WITH THIS FAIR!

HE'S WINKING AT ME! WE HAVE A SUPER-SECRET, ALL OUR OWN!

BUT AS THE BEAM OF STEEL STREAKS OFF

THE CONTROLS OF THIS CYCLOTRON ARE JAMMED. AND THE VOLTAGE IS INCREASING DANGEROUSLY!

UH-OH! I'VE GOT TO GO INTO ACTION AS SUPERGIRL TO SAVE LIVES, EVEN IF IT BETRAYS MY SECRET IDENTITY!

GROAN!... I PROMISED SUPERMAN NEVER TO REVEAL I AM SUPERGIRL, SO I CAN BE HIS SECRET WEAPON IN A REAL EMERGENCY! YET I CAN'T STAND BY AND PERMIT PEOPLE TO GET KILLED!

BUT SUDDENLY A HANDSOME YOUTH WHISPERS TO LINDA...

LET ME HANDLE THIS, SUPERGIRL!

?!?!... ELECTRIC BOLTS ARE FLASHING FROM HIS HANDS, DESTROYING THE FUSE BOX! THE DANGEROUS ELECTRICITY DISPLAY HAS STOPPED!

A TEEN-AGER WITH AMAZING POWERS.

SEE? IT WASN'T NECESSARY FOR YOU TO GIVE AWAY YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!

WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET THAT FANTASTIC POWER?

AND MOST OF ALL, HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

YOU'LL FIND OUT AT THE PROPER TIME, SUPER-GIRL! SO LONG FOR NOW!

LATER, AT THE FINISH OF A LION-TAMING ACT.

THE LION WON'T ENTER HIS CAGE! HE'S CHARGING THAT GIRL! SHE'LL BE KILLED!

THE BEAST'S TEETH AND CLAWS CAN'T HARM ME, BECAUSE OF MY INVULNERABILITY! BUT WHEN PEOPLE SEE I CAN'T BE HURT IT WILL GIVE AWAY MY SECRET!

SUDDENLY, AN ASTOUNDING THING HAPPENS..

CALM DOWN, AND ENTER YOUR CAGE!

MY SUPER-HEARING OVER HEARD THAT YOUNG GIRL'S SOFTLY WHISPERED COMMAND!...

:GASP!: THE LION IS MEEKLY OBEYING HER!!

YOU'LL FIND OUT AT THE PROPER TIME!

AND NOW, ANOTHER JARRING, WHISPERED CONVERSATION..

YOUR SECRET IDENTITY IS STILL SAFE, SUPERGIRL!

:GULP!: YOU KNOW MY SECRET, TOO!.. WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET THAT WILD LION TO OBEY YOUR COMMAND?

SHE'S WALKING OFF, SMILING TO HERSELF! I'M COMPLETELY BAFFLED!

MOMENTARILY LOSES A GOOD HOLD ON A KRYPTONIAN ROCKET SHIP AMUSEMENT RIDE, SO SHE CAN THINK ABOUT THE STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS...

TWO TEEN-AGERS... EACH POSSESSING A SUPER-POWER... KNEW ALL ABOUT ME! WHAT CAN IT MEAN?

SUDDENLY!

THE ROCKET BROKE LOOSE! IT'S FALLING. WHEN IT STRIKES THE GROUND, AND I'M NOT HURT, ONLOOKERS WILL LEARN I AM INVULNERABLE!

...NOW TO SAVE HER WITH MY MAGNETIC POWERS.

ASTONISHINGLY, THE FALLING ROCKET SHIP DEFIES GRAVITY, CHANGES THE DIRECTION OF ITS DOWNWARD PLUNGE, AND...

IT FELL ON SOME BALES OF HAY, BREAKING THE FALL! WHAT A LUCKY COINCIDENCE!

TELL ME QUICKLY, BEFORE THE OTHERS ARRIVE! WHERE DID YOU THREE KIDS GET YOUR AMAZING POWERS. AND HOW DID YOU LEARN MY SECRET?

BUT THEN, A THIRD TEEN-AGER HAS COME TO LINDA.

I HAD TO ACT FAST SO YOUR SECRET WOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO THE WORLD, SUPERGIRL!

OH, NO! THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE BEEN SAVED BY A TEENAGER WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS!

LATER, IN LINDA'S ROOM, AFTER SHE AND HER COMPANIONS FLEW TO SAFETY!

SUPERMAN WOULD BE FURIOUS IF HE KNEW MY SECRET HAS LEAKED OUT! I WON'T TELL HIM ABOUT THIS, YET! I'LL PROVE I CAN HANDLE A DIFFICULT SITUATION BY MYSELF!

YOU'LL FIND OUT AT THE PROPER TIME! BE SEEING YOU!

BUT AS SHE GLANCES THROUGH HER WINDOW..

GULP!! .. MY TELESCOPIC VISION REVEALS THAT A CONSTRUCTION CREW IS LEVELING A CERTAIN NEARBY WOODED LOT!

A BULLDOZER IS ABOUT TO KNOCK DOWN THE HOLLOW TREE IN WHICH MY LINDA LEE ROBOT IS HIDDEN!

IF THEY DISCOVER THE LINDA LEE ROBOT, PEOPLE WILL KNOW I'M NO ORDINARY ORPHAN! BUT IF I GO INTO ACTION AS SUPERGIRL, THOSE CHILDREN PLAYING BASEBALL WILL SEE ME! I'M SUNK--EITHER WAY!

AND AS THE TREE IS SMASHED DOWN

'GASP!' THE TREE ISN'T HOLLOW! THERE'S NO ROBOT INSIDE! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I .. DON'T ... GET IT!!

THEN... I SEE THE LINDA LEE ROBOT EMERGING FROM A HOLLOW TREE IN ANOTHER WOODED LOT! SOMETHING'S CUCKOO! I'LL INVESTIGATE...AS SUPERGIRL!

SWITCHING TO HER DYNAMIC IDENTITY, THE GIRL OF STEEL FLASHES AT SUPER-SPEED TO THE ISOLATED WOODS, AND...

WE MEET AGAIN, SUPERGIRL!

IT'S THOSE THREE TEENAGERS WITH AMAZING POWERS! BUT NOW THEY'RE WEARING COLORFUL ACTION COSTUMES!

WE'VE PROTECTED YOUR SECRET IDENTITY AGAIN, *SUPERGIRL*, BY TRANSFERRING THE HOLLOW TREE HERE BEFORE THE *LINDA LEE ROBOT* COULD BE DISCOVERED AND SUBSTITUTING A SOLID TREE IN ITS PLACE!

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH ME!

THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME YOU'VE USED SUPER-POWERS TO PROTECT MY SECRET FROM BEING REVEALED! WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?!!

WE'LL TELL YOU... *NOW!*

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF... *THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES?*

YES! *SUPERMAN* HAS TOLD ME HOW THREE YOUTHS WITH STRANGE POWERS TRAVELED FROM THE WORLD OF THE DISTANT FUTURE TO *SMALL-VILLE*, MANY YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS *SUPERBOY*...

THEY INVITED *SUPERBOY* TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE FUTURE, AND WHEN HE DID HE JOINED THEIR *SUPER-HERO CLUB!* THAT'S IT! YOU'RE THE *COSMIC BOY*... *SATURN GIRL*... AND *LIGHTNING LAD* HE KNEW!

NOT THE ONES HE KNEW, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THE SAME NAMES...

WE ARE THE *CHILDREN* OF THE THREE YOUNG SUPER-HEROES WHO BEFRIENDED *SUPERBOY!* WE ARE CARRYING ON THE *LEGION'S* TRADITIONS...

WE CAUSED THOSE THINGS TO GO WRONG AT THE *SUPERMAN FAIR* KNOWING WE COULD PREVENT ANYONE FROM BEING HURT!

BUT *WHY* DID YOU DO IT?

WE OBSERVED, ON OUR *TIME-VIEWER*, HOW YOU ARE *SUPERMAN'S* HELPER! WHAT WE DID TO YOU AT THE *FAIR* WERE INITIATION STUNTS! YOU SEE... WE'VE COME BACK INTO THE PAST BECAUSE WE WANT YOU TO *JOIN OUR CLUB!!*

OUR PARENTS CAME FROM OTHER WORLDS WHICH EXPLAINS OUR SUPER-POWERS. ACCORDING TO OUR CLUB'S RULES ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD WHO HAVE SUPER-POWERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

SUPERGIRL, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN VISITING OUR FUTURE WORLD AND JOINING THE *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*?

WOULD I?! I'D JUST LOVE TO!

I'VE PROMISED *SUPERMAN* TO KEEP MY EXISTENCE ON EARTH AS *SUPERGIRL* A SECRET, BUT I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND IF I JOIN A CLUB OF SUPER-HEROES IN THE DISTANT FUTURE. THE SAME CLUB *HE* JOINED WHEN HE WAS *SUPERBOY*!

YOU MAY ENTER OUR *TIME MACHINE*, IF YOU WISH OR...

NO. I'LL FLY THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER UNDER MY OWN POWER, AFTER ORDERING THE *LINDA LEE ROBOT* TO TAKE MY PLACE AT THE ORPHANAGE...

SUPERGIRL, A SUPER-OBJECT OF SPACE-STEEL THE *GIRL OF STEEL* STREAKING THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER AFTER THE AMAZING TIME-SPANNING VEHICLE...

IT'S... THE 30TH CENTURY... THE CITY OF *METROPOLIS* 1000 YEARS HENCE! IT'S BEAUTIFUL... AWESOME!

...SKY..

ROBOTS LABORING BELOW! DOES THIS MEAN..?

YES! MACHINES DO ALL OUR HEAVY PHYSICAL WORK! MAN IS FREE TO LABOR MAINLY WITH HIS MIND!

...

GOODNESS! YOU HAVE SPACE SIGHT-SEEING TRIPS!

INTERPLANETARY TOUR GET AWAY FROM IT ALL WE'LL TAKE YOU OUT OF THIS WORLD!

WHEN THEY PAUSE FOR REFRESHMENT...

HOW THE OLD ICE-CREAM PARLOR HAS CHANGED! THIS MARTIAN ICE-CREAM TASTES...ER...FANTASTICALLY DELIGHTFUL!

NINE DELICIOUS FLAVORS FROM NINE PLANETS

AFTERWARD...

THIS IS OUR CLUBHOUSE! YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF SATURN GIRL'S SKILL AT SUPER-THOUGHT-CASTING, OF LIGHTNIN' BOY'S MASTERY OF SUPER-LIGHTNING, AND THE CONTROL OF MYSELF, COSMIC BOY OVER SUPER-MAGNETISM...

SUPER HERO CLUB

NOW MEET OTHER CLUB MEMBERS! EACH HAS ONE SPECIAL SUPER-POWER, INHERITED FROM THEIR PARENTS FROM OTHER WORLDS! WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS?

YES, INDEED!

SHORTLY OUTSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE

IT'S EASY FOR ME TO GROW TO GREAT SIZE! I MERELY WILL MY BODY'S ATOMS TO *EXPAND!*

GOODNESS!

IT'S ME... *INVISIBLE KID!* PEEK-A-BOO!

ULP!

HA, HA! HE'S A *TRICKY* ONE!

I AM THE ONE AND ONLY *CHAMELEON BOY!*

AMAZING! THAT BOY CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A TALKING TREE! NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!

MANY WHO HAVE SUPER-POWERS WISH TO JOIN OUR CLUB, *SUPERGIRL*, BUT ONLY *ONE* APPLICANT A YEAR IS APPROVED!

IF YOU CAN PERFORM A SUPER-FEAT MORE SPECTACULAR THAN OUR COMPETING APPLICANTS HAVE ALREADY STAGED, WE'LL VOTE YOU IN!

BUT YOU MUST HURRY! THE TIME DURING WHICH WE WILL SELECT THIS YEAR'S NEW MEMBER IS ALMOST UP!

TELL ME... QUICKLY! WHAT IS THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF RAPID TRAVEL ON EARTH TODAY?

JET-CRAFT! HOWEVER, THE SKIES ARE OVERCROWDED DUE TO THE GREAT AIR TRAFFIC! WHY DO YOU ASK?

AS YOU ONCE TOLD ME, "YOU'LL FIND OUT AT THE PROPER TIME"! SEE YOU SOON!

INTO ACTION STREAKS THE MIGHTIEST MAID OF ALL TIME...

SHE'S DIGGING DOWN INTO THE GROUND!

I'LL BET SHE'S UP TO SOMETHING **SUPER-TERRIFIC!**

IN A MATTER OF MERE MINUTES, THE GIRL OF **STEEL** BUILDS A TREMENDOUS TUNNEL BENEATH THE CURVATURE OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE...

I WAS CAREFUL NOT TO DIG TOO DEEP, SO THAT I DIDN'T ENCOUNTER ANY MOLTEN, SUPER-HOT AREAS!

THROUGH THE EARTH BURROWS SUPERGIRL...

AS I DIG, I'LL LINE THE WALLS WITH ROCKS THAT ARE FUSED TOGETHER WITH THE SUPER-FRICTION CAUSED BY MY HANDS MOVING SUPER-SWIFTLY!

WHEN THE ASTOUNDING PROJECT IS COMPLETED, AND SHE REJOINS THE SUPER-HEROES...

NOW SOME OF THE PLANET'S HEAVY TRAFFIC CAN BE DIVERTED INTO THE SHORT-CUT, TRANS-EARTH TUNNEL I BUILT! AM I ACCEPTED INTO THE *LEGION* NOW?

NO! WE HAVE CHOSEN *SOMEONE ELSE* BECAUSE YOU ARE *OVER* OUR CLUB'S 18-YEAR-OLD AGE LIMIT!

YOU MUST BE JOKING! I'M ONLY FIFTEEN YEARS OLD! I...OH-OH! M-MY REFLECTION ON THE WALL OF THAT GLASS BUILDING..I...!

SOMETHING HAS MYSTERIOUSLY AGED YOU FROM A *SUPER-GIRL* INTO... A *SUPERWOMAN!*

RAPIDLY, THE WOMAN OF STEEL'S SUPER-VISION SUPPLIES THE ANSWER...

I SEE! WHEN I DUG THE TUNNEL, I PASSED A RED KRYPTONITE METEOR THAT MUST HAVE FALLEN DEEP INTO QUICKSAND. YEARS AGO! RED KRYPTONITE HAS UNPREDICTABLE, TEMPORARY EFFECTS ON ANY SURVIVOR OF THE EXPLODED PLANET KRYPTON!

THE METEOR'S RADIATIONS CHANGED ME FROM A GIRL INTO A WOMAN!

IT'S A GOOD THING MY SUPER-COSTUME CAN STRETCH TO ANY SIZE!

WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY, SUPER-WOMAN! IF YOU BECOME A TEENAGER AGAIN, YOU'LL BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN OUR CLUB NEXT YEAR!

BACK THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER SUPER-SPEEDS A TERRIBLY UPSET SUPERWOMAN...

TRAPPED! AND I CAN'T EVEN RETURN TO THE ORPHANAGE AS LINDA LEE, NOW THAT I'M AN ADULT! WHAT WILL I DO?!?

AND SO THE WOMAN OF STEEL HIDES OUT...

IT MAY BE MONTHS... YEARS.. IF EVER... BEFORE THE RED KRYPTONITE'S EFFECTS WEAR OFF! ;SOB:... I'M ASHAMED TO CONTACT SUPERMAN FOR HELP... ESPECIALLY SINCE HE OFTEN WARNED ME ABOUT R-RED KRYPTONITE ...! ;SOB!:

BUT HAPPILY, ONE HOUR LATER...

YIPPEE! IT WORE OFF! ITS EFFECT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY. I'M A GIRL AGAIN! I'LL ORDER THE LINDA ROBOT TO RETURN TO THE HOLLOW TREE- THEN I'LL GO BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE AS THE REAL LINDA LEE!

LATER, AS LINDA RETURNS TO HER FAMILIAR ROOM...

;SIGH:! I WANTED SO MUCH TO JOIN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!... WILL I EVER BE INVITED AGAIN TO BECOME A MEMBER?? I WONDER!

BLACK canary

THE TIME: A MOMENT AGO...
THE PLACE: THE CELLAR GYM OF THE 'WOMENS RESISTANCE LEAGUE', WHICH HAD HIRED THE BLACK CANARY TO TEACH ITS MEMBERSHIP JUDO — AND WHERE SHE HAD JUST COME UPON AN ARMED BAND OF DISGUISED WOMEN THREATENING HER STUDENT CLASS, WHEREUPON SHE COUNTERATTACKED, ONLY TO BE TREACHEROUSLY CUT DOWN FROM BEHIND BY... HER EMPLOYER, BERTHA, THE LEAGUE'S PRESIDENT.

HA! THAT'S A'SWITCH' SHE COULDN'T EXPECT!
NICE WORK, BOSS!
SHE'LL HAVE TO DIE—!!
YEAH! — WE CAN'T LET HER SPOIL OUR 'PLAN'—!!
ONE TWITCH OF MY FINGER, AND NO MORE CANARY — JUST FEATHERS!!
SCRIPT DENNY O'NEIL

NO— WAIT!

WE MIGHT MAKE MORE USE OF HER LATER...

...AS OUR HOSTAGE... OUR TICKET OUT— SHOULD ANYTHING GO WRONG!!

WRONG?!

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?!

OUR 'LEADER' HERSELF PLANNED THE 'BREAK!'

UNTIL WE FREE HER TO TAKE OVER DO AS I SAY, AND NOW!!

TAKE THE CANARY TO THE VAN OUT BACK—

—AND TIE HER UP, TIGHT!—

—AND MAKE SURE NO ONE SEES YOU DOING IT!—

AND LOAD ON THE GUNS, GAS AND CONCUSSION GRENADES!!

OKAY! OKAY!

OKAY! ALREADY!

LATER...

DO WE PUT ON OUR MASKS AGAIN?

NOT NOW!

WE'VE GOT A 450 MILE DRIVE OUT INTO THE BOONDOCKS TO MAKE THE 'INTERCEPTION' POINT BY MORNING.

HOURS LATER. CONSCIOUSNESS SLOWLY IS TURNS TO THE BLACK CANARY AS SHE HEARS BERTHA SAY

AFTER WE FREE OUR LEADER

SO.. OUR BERTHA'S IN WITH.. MUTATED GOONS.

..WE'LL PLUG THE CANARY

FIGURES!

... AND LEAVE HER THERE ON THE SPOT! THE POLICE WILL THINK SHE WAS THE BRAIN BEHIND THE BREAK!... HAHA HA!!

GOT TO GET OUT OF THESE ROPES..

... IF I CAN FIND ... SOME ROUGH EDGE TO SAW THE ROPES ON...

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I'VE GOT LEFT...

ANOTHER FOUR HOURS PASS, JOLTING RIDE..

HAH! AHYESS.. HERE'S ONE... THE BOUNCING RIDE WILL COVER MY SAWING MOTION!

I HOPE!

BERTHA!

I'M AWAKE. AND CURIOUS! I HEARD YOU SAY I'M GOING TO BE SHOT!

MIND TELLING ME WHERE?

NOT AT ALL, B.C.!

WE'RE TAKING A LONG DRIVE OUT INTO THE BOONDOCKS —

— TO INTERCEPT A PRISON CAR IN WHICH OUR LEADER IS BEING TAKEN TO A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON —

— AFTER WE FREE HER —

— YOU'LL GET YOURS!

WE'LL THINK OF YOU, B.C. EVERYTIME WE DO A JOB; IT'S ALL THE JUDO YOU TAUGHT US!

SHE'S HAPPILY GLOATING OVER MY APPARENT HELPLESSNESS!

I'D BE HELPLESS, WERE IT NOT FOR MY 'REBEL ROBIN HOOD' THE GREEN ARROW

LECTURING ME...

BEAUTIFUL BIRD LADY —

— IF YOU MUST EVER GIVE UP —

— DO IT TEN MINUTES AFTER YOU'VE DRAWN YOUR LAST BREATH —

— AND NOT A SECOND BEFORE!

GREEN ARROW'S RIGHT!

WHERE THERE'S LIFE

THERE'S HOPE!

I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE — IF THESE ROPES WILL GIVE!?

THIS IS IT

WE'RE HERE!

HOW TO BLOCK THE ROAD!

THERE!

GOOD!!

TAKE COVER!

READY YOUR GAS AND CONCUSSION GRENADES —

— AND CHECK YOUR (AMMO)

OKAY, MARCY!

WELL — (GOODBYE, CANARY.

IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE EMPLOYING YOU —!

MUST STILL FIND

MARCY, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO SHOOT ME —

— IN COLD BLOOD?

NEED A FEW SECONDS MORE.

Y'WANT ME TO BUILD A FIRE UNDER YOU, OR SOMETHIN', FIRST??!!

I-I CAN FEEL THE ROPES GIVING WAY—! YESS!!

MUST BE QUICK — AND QU'ET!

TAKE A NAP, MARCH!

...THERE!!

AT THAT MOMENT...

HILL — LOOK OUT!!

HILL — GET THAT TRUCK OFF THE ROAD!

YESSIR!

LET GO GRENADES!

GAS AND CONCUSSION GRENADES ERUPT.

KRAMP

BERTHA'S BEGUN THE ATTACK!

SHE'LL PULL IT OFF, TOO -

- UNLESS -

- I SMASH UP HER AMBUSH PARTY - !!

KRRRM

NOW BACK TO BERTHA!

SHE'S AT THE CAR -

GOT TO MOVE FAST AND HARD!

YOU, IN THE CAR! SEND OUT YOUR PRISONER, NOW, OR YOU'RE A CORPSE!

C'MON!

OKAY! HERE I AM, YOU TWO HALLOWEEN HORRORS—

—JUST IN TIME!—

RIGHT 'ON THE BUTTON', EH?

BONG

SO MUCH FOR BERTHA AND CO!!

BEAUTIFULLY DONE, MISS!

I'VE RADIOED THE LOCAL POLICE TO HELP ROUND UP THE REST OF THIS MOB!

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO MEET THE WOMAN THEY TRIED TO SET FREE

THE CATWOMAN!! WELL, WELL! THE BATMAN'S OLD FOE IS BERTHA'S 'LEADER'

GO CHOKE ON SOME BIRDSEED, CANARY!

ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, MISS?

MMMM— KNOW OF ANY JOBS FOR A JUDO EXPERT?

The SANDMAN

THE UNHOLY DREAMS OF GENTLEMAN JACK

JOE SIMON and JACK KIRBY

"GENTLEMAN JACK" JARVIS DREAMS OF A LIFE OF LUXURY IN PRISON...AND THE DREAM COMES TRUE! AND HE DREAMS OF CAPTURING AND TAKING REVENGE ON *THE SANDMAN*.... THAT MYSTERIOUS RAIDER OF THE NIGHT, WHO BRINGS EVIL-DOERS TO JUSTICE ...AND, LO AND BEHOLD, THAT FANTASTIC DREAM COMES TRUE ALSO! BUT *THE SANDMAN* IS MASTER OF DREAMS...AND WITH THE STAUNCH SUPPORT OF HIS FEARLESS YOUNG PAL, SANDY... HE BATTLES HIS WAY THROUGH DEADLY PERILS TO PRESENT *"GENTLEMAN JACK"* WITH AS FINE A NIGHTMARE AS EVER SHARED A SOLITARY CELL WITH A FELON!

NOT EVEN STATE PRISON CAN MAKE "GENTLEMAN JACK" JARVIS FORGET THE LUXURY HE LOVES!

IT'S NOON, MR. JARVIS... WILL YOU HAVE YOUR MORNING CHOCOLATE NOW OR LATER?

I'LL TAKE IT NOW...MAYBE IT WILL SOOTHE ME!

WILL YOU HAVE LAVENDER OR HELIOTROPE BATH SALTS IN YOUR TUB, SIR?

I'LL LET YOU KNOW LATER, PERKINS... WHEN I'M THOROUGHLY RESTED!

THE CHAUFFEUR IS WONDERING WHETHER YOU'LL REQUIRE THE TOWN CAR OR THE LIMOUSINE THIS EVENING...

DON'T BOTHER ME WITH SUCH DETAILS AT THIS UNEARTHLY HOUR! WAKE ME AT FOUR THIS AFTERNOON AND I'LL DECIDE!

BUT AS THE CEILING GUARD TURNS TO LEAVE "GENTLEMAN JACK" IN PEACE...

SANDMAN! YOU MUSTN'T GO IN NOW! GENTLEMAN JACK WISHES TO REST!

OH HE DOES, DOES HE?

REST IS FOR THE WEARY...NOT THE WICKED! WAKE UP, I SAY!

HEY! CUT IT OUT!

ONLY HONEST MEN HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO ENJOY LIFE! GET OUT TO THE ROCK-PILE!

YOU AGAIN? CAN'T YOU EVER LET ME ALONE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS...THE RITZ-WALDORF?-THE ROCKPILE FOR YOU!!

AND "GENTLEMAN JACK'S" ROSY DREAM GIVES WAY TO BITTER REALITY---

TRYING TO PRETEND YOU DIDN'T HEAR THE FIVE A.M. GONG, EH?

DON'T, SANDMAN! UHH... I MEAN ER...YESSIR!

IT WAS A LOVELY DREAM TILL THE SANDMAN SPOILED IT...LIKE HE'S SPOILED EVERYTHING ELSE FOR ME!

YOU...NUMBER 999... QUIT MUMBLING AND STEP LIVELY!

TWO THINGS I'D RATHER DO THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD! GET EVEN WITH THE SANDMAN... AND MAKE THE REST OF THAT DREAM COME TRUE!

SNAP INTO IT, 999... OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PUT IN SOLITARY?

[illegible]

AND WITH MY BRAINS AND THE SWAG I HID AFTER THAT LAST BANK ROBBERY, WHY SHOULDN'T I DO THEM? BY GEORGE I WILL!

FROM THAT DAY ONWARD, JARVIS LIVES WITH BUT ONE THOUGHT IN MIND...

I'LL LIVE IN A SUITE OF CELLS...AND COME AND GO AS I PLEASE... GUARDS WILL WAIT ON ME, AND BOW AS I PASS!

...BUT THE SANDMAN WILL SUFFER IN A SOLITARY CELL... WILL SUFFER AND DIE...VERY SLOWLY!!

MAD DREAM YOU SAY...! GENTLEMAN JACK JARVIS CAN NEVER POSSIBLY REALIZE? AH...NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE EVIL POWERS OF A CUNNING MAN OBSESSED WITH A SINGLE IDEA...HAVING NO SENSE OF FAIRNESS OR QUALM OF CONSCIENCE TO STAND IN THE WAY OF HIS AMBITION!

LET US SKIP THE TEDIOUS WAITING AND PLANNING...AND LOOK AHEAD A YEAR...

GUS, I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS TO THE CLASSIFIED AD DEPARTMENT OF THE EVENING CHRONICLE!

SURE THING GENTLEMAN JACK!

THIS TIME IT ISN'T A DREAM... I'VE DONE IT! NOBODY EVER HAD MORE LUXURY BEHIND BARS THAN I'M HAVING...AND BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER, I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON THE SANDMAN!

THAT EVENING, IN THE HOME OF WES DODDS, WEALTHY YOUNG MAN-ABOUT-TOWN...

WES..SOMEBODY IS ADVERTISING FOR THE SANDMAN!

ABOUT TIME, TOO. THE POOR FELLOW HASN'T HAD A GOOD CASE IN WEEKS.

HMM-- A PRISON GUARD! WHAT DO YOU SAY, SANDY--SHALL I KEEP THE DATE?

SANDMAN.. YOU CAN MAKE AN OLD FRIEND VERY HAPPY BY MEETING A PRISON GUARD AT FOURTH AND MAIN STREETS AT MIDNIGHT..

SANDY HAWKINS, PARTNER OF WES DODDS IN MANY PERILOUS ADVENTURES... HAS NEVER TURNED DOWN A CHANCE FOR EXCITEMENT...

YOU BET WE'LL KEEP IT!

WAIT A MINUTE, CHUM YOU'RE NOT INCLUDED IN THE INVITATION!

AS MIDNIGHT DRAWS NEAR...

DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, SANDY... I'D LET YOU GO ALONG, BUT IF IT SHOULD TURN OUT TO BE A ONE-MAN JOB, YOU'D ONLY BE IN THE WAY!

AW, SANDMAN... WHEN WAS I EVER IN YOUR WAY?

A GOLDEN FIGURE FLASHING THROUGH SHADOWS, THE SANDMAN... ...SOWER OF DREAMS OF HOPE FOR THE OPPRESSED AND NIGHTMARES FOR THE WICKED... SWINGS OVER SILENT ROOFTOPS!

I HATED TO LEAVE THE YOUNGSTER BEHIND--BUT I CAN'T LET HIM RUN TOO MANY RISKS!

AT THE CORNER OF FOURTH AND MAIN...

THERS HE IS...AND JUDGING BY THE WAY HE'S F-DGETING, I'D SAY HE WAS M-GHTY NERVOUS!

WELL, HERE I AM... WHAT'S UP?

S-SANDMAN! Y-YOU'RE TO C-COME ALONG W-W-TH ME! A F-FRIEND OF YOURS W-WANTS TO S-SEE YOU!

TH-THAT'S THE PLACE! I GUESS YOU M-GHT CALL IT A SORT OF P-PRIVATE PRISON!

STRANGE... IF THIS FELLOW IS A PRISON GUARD WHY IS HE SO NERVOUS IN MY COMPANY? AND WHY A PRIVATE PRISON?

NOT SO FAST, STRANGER ... WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

Y-YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING IN JUST A MINUTE!

PRESENTLY, ON AN UPPER FLOOR...

HOW NICE OF YOU TO ANSWER MY ADVERTISEMENT, SANDMAN! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY TASTE IN INTERIOR DECORATION?

GENTLEMAN JACK JARVIS! I READ ABOUT YOUR RELEASE, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU'D BECOME FOND ENOUGH OF PRISON TO FIX UP YOUR HOME LIKE ONE!

YOU SEE, I NEVER REALLY MISSED COMFORT TILL YOU SENT ME TO THE BIG HOUSE... NOW THESE SURROUNDINGS PROVIDE THE CONTRAST THAT MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE SEEM MUCH MORE LUXURIOUS!

IT SOUNDS WHACKY...BUT I CAN SEE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONING BEHIND IT!

OF COURSE, IT ISN'T TOO MUCH LIKE A PRISON... THE BARS ARE RUBBER INSTEAD OF STEEL, SO I CAN COME AND GO AS I PLEASE!

WELL, IF YOU STICK TO THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH, I WON'T HAVE TO CHANGE THEM!

CHANGING THINGS FOR OTHER PEOPLE IS GOING TO BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES FROM NOW ON... LOOK BEHIND YOU!!

WHA...? SO THIS IS WHY YOU TRICKED ME INTO COMING HERE! BUT I'VE FOUGHT RATS WITH GUNS IN THEIR HANDS BEFORE...

... AND I'LL TAKE A CHANCE AGA-- AGHH-H!!

YOU MEAN YOU'LL TAKE A NAP!

MINUTES LATER, THE SANDMAN RETURNS TO FAITFUL CONSCIOUSNESS TO FIND ...

WHA... WHERE?

YOU TOOK ME OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR A LONG TIME, SANDMAN...AND TURN ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY! NOTE THE PIPE LEADING FROM YOUR AIRTIGHT CELL...

I START THE MOTOR...SO... AND IT PUMPS THE AIR OUT OF THE CELL. A LITTLE AT A TIME! YOU'RE ABOUT TO SUFFOCATE, SANDMAN ... VERY, VERY SLOWLY!

THE LAW WILL GET YOU, JARVIS... AND WHEN IT DOES, YOU'LL SUFFOCATE, TOO... WITH A ROPE AROUND YOUR NECK!

THICK PLATE GLASS, STRONG AS STEEL... RESISTS THE MIGHTY STRENGTH OF THE PRISONER...

NO USE...I'M ONLY WASTING AIR...

LOOKS LIKE THE SANDMAN HAS LOST HIS LAST BATTLE WITH THE UNDERWORLD... BUT I CAN BE THANKFUL FOR ONE THING...THAT SANDY IS SAFE AT HOME, INSTEAD OF HERE WITH ME!

BUT IS SANDY SAFE AT HOME? LET US TURN BACK THE CLOCK A LITTLE TO THE FIRST FEW MOMENTS AFTER THE SANDMAN DEPARTED ON HIS BLIND DATE WITH ADVENTURE...

I DON'T LIKE TO DISOBEY THE SANDMAN... BUT I CAN'T GET OVER THE FEELING THAT HE'S GOING TO NEED ME!

SPURRED BY A MYSTERIOUS SIXTH SENSE OF WARNING, THE GOLDEN BOY RACES ALONG THE ROOFTOP TRAIL... AND...

HE WENT THIS WAY... AND THERE HE IS NOW... WITH THE PRISON GUARD!

THAT HOUSE... IT'S LIKE A JAIL! I'LL WAIT AND SEE IF THE SANDMAN COMES OUT!

MINUTES PASS BEFORE SANDY'S WISPOON GUN DRIVES A NEEDLE-SHARP BAR INTO A HIGH WINDOW FRAME AND A POWERFUL REEL LIFTS HIM UPWARD...

WHY, THE BARS ARE RUBBER.. AND IF THAT ISN'T GENTLEMAN JACK JARVIS, I'LL EAT THOSE PRISON PAJAMAS HE'S WEARING!

WITHIN THE HOUSE, JARVIS PREPARES TO REST FROM HIS MONUMENTAL LABORS...

WITH THE SANDMAN LOCKED UP TIGHT IN THE BASEMENT, I OUGHT TO SLEEP BETTER THAN I HAVE IN YEARS, GUS!

YES SIR!

YOU AND THE BOYS TAKE TURNS WATCHING HIM, AND WAKE ME BEFORE THE END COMES, SO I CAN PAY HIM ANOTHER VISIT! HO-HUM... TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!

GOOD NIGHT, GENTLEMAN JACK!

AS HEAVY SLUMBER STEALS OVER THE GANGSTER CHIEF, A SMALL FIGURE SLIPS INTO THE DARKENED HOUSE...

HE'S LOCKED UP HERE IN THE BASEMENT, GENTLEMAN JACK SAID...AND HE'S STILL ALIVE!

BUT AN UNSEEN OBSTACLE ON THE STAIRWAY TRIPS HIM, AND...

HUH? SOMEONE'S COMIN'...WHY, IT'S TH' SANDMAN'S KID PAL!

HIS TORTURED LUNGS GASPING IN THE RAREFIED AIR OF THE CELL, THE SANDMAN IS HORRIFIED BY A NEW THREAT...

SANDY! AND THAT HOODLUM'S GOT HIM! WHY DIDN'T HE STAY HOME!

YOU LITTLE BRAT I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND YOUR WAY HERE, BUT I KNOW YOU'LL NEVER FIND YOUR WAY OUT!

IF I CAN GET IN JUST ONE SHOT WITH MY WIRE-FLION GUN!

A POWERFUL SPRING HURLS THE BARBED STEEL FROM THE AMAZING WEAPON, STRAIGHT FOR THE GLASS WALL OF THE SANDMAN'S CELL...AND A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...

GULPING PRECIOUS AIR, HE WILDLY TURNS—CLAWS WITHOUT CONSCIOUS EFFORT HIS LEFT HAND RISES FROM ITS CACHE

MEANWHILE, THE BEGINNING OF A BLISSFUL DREAM TAKES PLACE IN GENTLEMAN JACK'S DROWSY MIND...

NOW FOR A NICE BREAKFAST... GUS! HEFTY! SKINNY!

DO WE SAY BLISSFUL? SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WRONG...

BRING MY BREAKFAST! DRAW MY BATH! PHONE FOR MY LIMOUSINE... WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

LISTEN TO HIM, WILL YOU? HE MUST BE CRAZY!!!

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ANYWAY?

WE'LL GIVE HIM BREAKFAST... BREAD AND WATER IN SOLITARY!

HEY! YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME, REMEMBER?... YOU'RE PART OF MY GANG AND THOSE GUARD UNIFORMS YOU'RE WEARING ARE PHONEY! LET ME GO!

IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL IT, THE DREAMER FINDS HIMSELF IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I TELL YOU I'M THE BOSS HERE!

YET NOT COMPLETELY SOLITARY... FOR A FAMILIAR FIGURE COMES TO MOCK...

SANDMAN! NO... YOU'RE NOT REAL! YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU!

AND FOR ONCE THE AWAKENING IS WORSE THAN THE NIGHTMARE ITSELF!

WHAT A DREAM! OF COURSE THE SANDMAN WILL NEVER BOTHER ME AGAIN! WH- WHY.. IT'S HIM!

RIGHT, JARVIS!

HELP!! GUS . SKINNY.. HEFTY. SHOOT THEM"

WE SHOULDA DONE THIS IN TH' FIRST PLACE!

WELL, WELL... WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE, SANDMAN?

NOT *THIS* ONE, ANYWAY!

OKAY, I'LL HANDLE HIS PAL, THEN!

GENTLEMAN JACK JARVIS MAKES A LAST DESPERATE DO FOR FREEDOM...

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME BACK TO THE BIG HOUSE, SANDMAN!

I'LL TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOUR BEING IN THE WAY, SANDY!

YOU'VE MADE YOUR BED...NOW LIE UNDER IT!

OOF!

SO IT'S THAT AN OLD CUSTOMER RETURNS TO STATE PRISON...

I WAS *FRAMED*, I TELL YOU!

PUT HIM IN SOLITARY TILL HE STOPS RAVING!

...AND DREAMS AGAIN THROUGH MANY DREARY NIGHTS ---

THERE IS NO LAND BEYOND THE LAW WHERE TYRANTS RULE WITH UNSHAKEABLE POWER. 'TIS A DREAM FROM WHICH THE EVIL WAKE TO FACE THEIR FATE -- THEIR TERRIFYING HOUR!

The Sandman

WHILE IN WES DODDS' HOME...

ISN'T IT STRANGE, WES, HOW GENTLEMAN JACK'S DREAM CAME TRUE... AND THEN BACKFIRED?

NOT SO STRANGE, SANDY--A MAN'S CHARACTER SHAPES HIS DREAMS AND ALSO HIS FATE... SO THAT THE ONE IS VERY APT TO REFLECT THE OTHER!

"DREAMS AND FATE MINGLE IN STARTLING FASHION AGAIN AS THE MYSTERIOUS **SANDMAN** *and* **SANDY** SWEEP ALONG OTHER PATHS OF PERIL IN CLASSIC ADVENTURES IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF

SUPERBOY

A LEX LUTHOR SPECIAL!

A KRYPTONITE METEOR IS THE ONLY SUBSTANCE IN THE UNIVERSE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE INVINCIBLE INVULNERABLE BOY OF STEEL! ONE NIGHTMARISH DAY, DUE TO A CUNNING PLOT PLANNED BY SUPERBOY'S GREATEST FOE LUTHOR, KRYPTONITE RAINS FALL AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY IS ATTACKED BY THE MOST INCREDIBLE MENACE HE HAS EVER KNOWN...

THE ARMY of LIVING KRYPTONITE MEN!

HA, HA! LITTLE DOES SUPERBOY KNOW IT, BUT I, LEX LUTHOR, AM MENTALLY ORDERING MY FIENDISH CREATIONS, THE TERRIBLE LIVING KRYPTONITE MEN, TO DESTROY HIM ON A DISTANT ASTEROID!

ART BY GEORGE PAPP
STORY BY JERRY SIEGEL

ONE DAY IN SMALLVILLE, AS CLARK (SUPERBOY) KENT SHOWS HIS FOSTER FATHER SOME TROPHIES IN A SECRET ROOM IN THE KENT HOME...

STRANGE, SON...!

WHAT AN ODD COINCIDENCE THAT LANA LANG AND LEX LUTHOR, WHO PLAY SUCH IMPORTANT ROLES IN YOUR LIFE, BOTH HAVE THE SAME INITIALS - "L.L"!

THAT'S NOT ALL, DAD!

THESE FIGURINES OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* FROM THE FUTURE WERE GIVEN TO ME BY THEM AFTER AN ADVENTURE ON THE *SUPERBOY PLANET*, WHICH THEY HAD BUILT IN MY HONOR!

EACH LEGIONNAIRE HAS ONE SPECIAL SUPER-POWER. OBSERVE THAT *LIGHTNING LAD*, TOO, HAS THE INITIALS "L. L."!

REMARKABLE!

COSMIC BOY SUPER-MAGNETISM

SATURN GIRL SUPER-TELEPATHY

LIGHTNING LAD SUPER-LIGHTNING

ABOUT LEX LUTHOR...! WHAT A SHAME HIS BRILLIANT MIND HAS BEEN WARPED BY A MAD, UNREASONING HATRED FOR YOU!

HE COULD BECOME A GREAT SCIENTIST EXCEPT FOR HIS EVIL AMBITIONS!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN LEX LUTHOR'S HOME-LABORATORY...

THIS MIND-HELMET WILL INCREASE MY BRAIN-POWER TREMENDOUSLY! I'LL BECOME GREATER THAN *SUPERBOY* COULD EVER HOPE TO BE! HERE GOES!

AND AS THE STRANGE MACHINE HUMS AND BUZZES...

*I GASP! EXPERIMENTALLY, I CONCENTRATED ON THOSE ROCK SPECIMENS... AND THEY'RE GLOWING AS THOUGH THEY ARE... **ALIVE** AND **INTELLIGENT**! N-NOW I'M MAKING THEM **FLY**, BY MERELY **WILLING** IT!*

*ASTOUNDING! I, LUTHOR, HAVE GIVEN **LIFE** TO INANIMATE STONE!..EUREKA! I CAN USE THIS ASTONISHING POWER OF MINE TO... HA, HA... DESTROY **SUPERBOY**!*

THAT EVENING AS SUPERBOY PATROLS SMALLVILLE...

ALL'S WELL, BELOW! NOW TO LOOK UPWARD TOWARD OUTER SPACE WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION TO SEE IF EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT OUT THERE... GASP!

SUDDENLY [illegible] OF STEEL [illegible] FROM EARTH AND IN THE [illegible] SPACE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THIS, I'VE GOT TO EXAMINE AT CLOSE RANGE.

AS HE ALIGHTS ON ONE OF THE ASTEROIDS TO STUDY THE COSMIC ENIGMA...

GREAT SCOTT! NOW THE STONE HAND IS **MOVING**... SLOWLY CLENCHING ITSELF INTO... **A CLOSED FIST!**

MOMENTS LATER... TWO ASTEROIDS FLASHING THROUGH SPACE, SIDE-BY-SIDE, BOUND TOGETHER BY A DELICATE GRAVITATIONAL BALANCE! UPON ONE OF THEM IS AN UPRIGHT **GIANT HAND OF STONE! WHO... WHAT... BUILT IT?!**

MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH, LEX LUTHOR **SMIRKS AS HE CLENCHES HIS OWN FIST** BEFORE A SUPER-TELESCOPE SCANNER-PROJECTOR SCREEN...

HA, HA! LITTLE DOES **SUPERBOY** REALIZE THAT BY CONCENTRATING ON **MY OWN HAND**, I AM ABLE TO "COMMAND" THOSE "LIVING ROCKS" ON THAT DISTANT **ASTEROID TO MIMIC MY HAND MOVEMENTS!**

IT WAS **I** WHO LURED **SUPERBOY** TO THOSE ASTEROIDS, WHICH I DETECTED WITH MY SUPER-TELESCOPE! --! OW! TO CONCENTRATE **HARD**... ON MY SECOND STEP... IN MY INCREDIBLE SCHEME TO DESTROY **SUPERBOY!**

ON EARTH... HA HA! SPECTROSCOPIC OBSERVATION INFORMED ME OF THE EXISTENCE OF THOSE SHATTERED **KRYPTONITE** METEORS ON THE ASTEROID! THEY WERE BEHIND THAT **LEAD MOUNTAIN**, SO **SUPERBOY** DID NOT DETECT THEIR EXISTENCE AS HE APPROACHED FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE!

GREEN KRYPTONITE, FORMED BY ATOMIC FISSION WHEN **KRYPTON**, THE PLANET OF **SUPERBOY'S** ORIGIN EXPLODED, IS THE ONE SUBSTANCE THAT CAN KILL THE **BOY OF STEEL!** HOWEVER, ITS RADIATIONS CANNOT PASS THROUGH LEAD...!

PRESENTLY, ON THE DISTANT ASTEROID...

CHUNKS OF **GREEN KRYPTONITE**... STREAKING AT ME FROM THAT SECOND GRAVITATION-BOUND ASTEROID! TOO LATE FOR ME TO TRY TO FLEE! THEIR RADIATIONS HAVE ALREADY SAPPED MY STRENGTH! **OW-WWW!** IT **HURTS!**

BACK ON EARTH, IN LUTHOR'S LAB...

AND NOW, **KRYPTONITE** FRAGMENTS... FORM YOURSELVES INTO **LIVING KRYPTONITE MEN**, SHAPING YOURSELVES LIKE THESE TOY-FIGURES!

THEN, ON THE [illegible] IN RESPONSE TO LEX LUTHOR'S MENTAL COMMAND...

¡GASP!... THOSE PIECES OF **LIVING K-KRYPTONITE** HAVE BECOME GROTESQUE IMITATIONS OF **HUMAN BEINGS!** TH-THEY'RE CHARGING AT ME LIKE A HORRIBLE ARMY OF GHASTLY DEMONS...!

IN LUTHOR'S LAIR ON LANA...

...I'LL KEEP AWAKENING YOU LIKE THIS! AND THIS!!! AND THIS!!!

MEANWHILE, ON THE ASTEROID...

CAN'T M-MOVE! THEY'RE PINNING ME DOWN! OHH-HHN... I-I'M T-TURNING GREEN! GASP! KRYPTONITE BLOOD-POISONING IS SETTING IN!

I WONDER WHAT AMAZING EXPERIMENT LEX LUTHOR IS WORKING ON NOW! DRAT THIS CURIOSITY OF MINE! I'VE JUST GOT TO FIND OUT!

HMMM. I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WERE TO PULL THAT LEVER?!?

...I'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK DOWN THE ...AND OBJECTS ...TO BE THE WORK OF SUPER-VILLAIN!

BUT NOT KNOWING THIS, NOR AWARE OF SUPERBOY'S DESPERATE PERIL, LANA TIMIDLY HESITATES...

I BUILT THIS D-LEVER AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE JUST IN CASE I EVER HAVE TO DESTROY THIS INVENTION TO PREVENT THE LAW FROM USING IT AS INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE AGAINST ME!

SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I??

YOU DON'T KNOW IT, LANA, BUT IF YOU PULL THAT LEVER YOU'LL KILL SUPERBOY...

BUT IRONICALLY, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, A FUSE BLOWS AT THAT MOMENT, AND ...

YIPES! IT'S NOW PITCH-DARK IN HERE! I'M GETTING OUT NOW! ... I'M S-SCARED!

...AND AS LUTHOR REPLACES THE FUSE...

PHOOIE! I HATE TIME-WASTING INTERRUPTIONS! OH, WELL, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG! THERE! THE LIGHTS ARE ON AGAIN!

...WHILE FLYING BACK TOWARD EARTH WITH HIS MASTER THROUGH OUTER-SPACE, KRYPTO, SUPERBOY'S PET SUPER-DOG, SENSES HIS MASTER'S PERIL...

OH-OH! LIVING K-KRYPTONITE MEN ARE KILLING SUPERBOY! I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM! BUT HOW?? I'M VULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE, TOO! WAIT!

I KNOW! I'LL SUPER-PUFF MY MASTER FAR OUT INTO SPACE, TO SAFETY!

YOUR PLAN CAN'T WORK KRYPTO! DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S NO AIR IN OUTER SPACE?

IMMEDIATELY, THE METEOR'S METALLIC MENACE GROWS.

MEANWHILE, LUTHOR RETURNS TO HIS SCANNER SCREEN AND SWIFTLY ACTS TO RID HIMSELF OF KRYPTO, TOO...

KRYPTONITE FRAGMENTS, REGROUP YOURSELVES INTO A COLOSSAL LIVING KRYPTONITE GIANT!

IT... IT'S G-GOT ME! MOAN!E

DELIBERATELY, LUTHOR PRONOUNCES A SENTENCE OF DOOM...

LIVING, INTELLIGENT KRYPTONITE FRAGMENTS, SEPARATE! RAN DOWN ON SUPERBOY AND KRYPTO! BURY THEM! KILL THEM!

ON THE ASTEROID, AS GREEN DEATH POURS MERCILESSLY DOWN ON THE STRICKEN, DYING SUPER-BEINGS...

IT'S... THE END. ⋮CHOKE!⋮ G-GOODBYE, FAITHFUL KRYPTO...

GOODBYE... BELOVED... MASTER.. ⋮CHOKE!⋮

IN THE SMALLVILLE LABORATORY...

HA! SUPERBOY AND KRYPTO ARE COMPLETELY BURIED UNDER THOSE CHUNKS OF KRYPTONITE! THEY'LL BOTH BE DEAD WITHIN HOURS! I'LL TURN OFF THE SUPER-TELESCOPE AND CELEBRATE!

CACKLING GLEEFULLY, LEX LUTHOR GLOATS OVER HIS TRIUMPH...

HA, HA! WITH SUPERBOY DEAD, NO ONE CAN PREVENT ME FROM BECOMING THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME! LUTHOR, MY BOY, YOU'RE TERRIFIC!

BUT UNEXPECTEDLY...

WRONG, LUTHOR!

AWK! SUPERBOY... ALIVE! AND KRYPTO IS ALIVE, TOO! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO WAY YOU TWO COULD HAVE ESCAPED FROM THAT MOUND OF DEADLY KRYPTONITE FRAGMENTS...!

WHAT YOU DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS SOMEONE WHO ALSO HAS THE INITIALS—"L. L."!-- MEET LIGHTNING LAD, A FRIEND OF MINE FROM THE FUTURE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

"IN HIS FUTURE TIME-ERA, LIGHTNING LAD AND HIS FRIENDS WITH RESCUED MY ALTER EGO FROM THEIR TIME-VIEWER..."

OUR FRIEND FROM THE PAST SUPERBOY, IS IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE! LUTHOR HAS USED HIS POWER OF MIND OVER MATTER TO DESTROY HIM!

LET ME HANDLE THIS! I'LL VISIT THE PAST IN OUR TIME-MACHINE!

"ARRIVING IN THE ERA LIGHTNING LAD EXPOSED THOSE KRYPTONITE NITE CRYSTALS SURROUNDING KRYPTO AND ME, WITH LIGHTNING BOLTS FROM HIS HAND..."

NOW TO FLY THEM TO SAFETY! THEIR SUPER STRENGTH WILL QUICKLY RETURN.

"MOMENTS AFTERWARD, THEIR GRAVITIES LURCH DUE TO THE SHIFT IN BALANCE CAUSED BY YOUR MIND-MISCHIEF! THE TWO ASTEROIDS COLLIDED AND WERE DESTROYED..."

KRYPTO AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN HURLED FREE OF THE KRYPTONITE BY THAT COLLISION, AND SO LIGHTNING LAD'S RESCUE OF US DID NOT CHANGE FATE! WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED ANYWAY!

YOU BUILT YOUR MACHINE FOR EVIL PURPOSES, LUTHOR! I'M DESTROYING IT!

GROAN! THE MACHINE'S PARTS WERE MADE OF SUCH RARE MATERIALS, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REBUILD IT AGAIN. BLAST YOU!

GR'R-R-R!

PRESENTLY, ON SMALLVILLE'S OUTSKIRTS...

THERE GOES LIGHTNING LAD IN HIS TIME-MACHINE, BACK TO HIS OWN ERA, THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER! I HOPE LUTHOR WILL ABANDON HIS MAD DESIRE TO DESTROY ME! MAYBE HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON! I WONDER...

MEANWHILE...

IF A LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES WILL EXIST CENTURIES FROM NOW... THEN A LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS PROBABLY EXISTS IN THE FUTURE, TOO! SOME DAY I'LL CONTACT THEM AND GET THEM TO HELP ME TO DESTROY SUPERBOY!

SPECTRE!

MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE FIRST *PRIMAL ATOM* EXPLODED TO CREATE THE STARS AND PLANETS -- PLANTS AND ANIMALS -- GOOD AND EVIL!

FOR LONG EONS EVIL HAS EXISTED IN THE *PSYCHO-MATTER* UNIVERSE OF *DIS* AWAITING THAT MOMENT OUT OF TIME WHEN IT COULD BREAK THROUGH AND DOMINATE THE *EARTH!* ASSIGNED TO THWART THIS THREAT IS THE *SPECTRE* -- THE ONLY ONE POSSESSING POWER ENOUGH TO KEEP THE FORCE OF EVIL PENNED UP --

BEYOND the SINISTER BARRIER!

ALONG THE SCORCHING SANDS OF THE GOGI DESERT STAGGERS A MONGOLIAN BANDIT, HIS TONGUE SWOLLEN, HIS SENSES REELING FROM THIRST...

WATER! DEMON SPIRITS OF THE DESERT--GIVE ME WATER! I DIE IF I DO NOT HAVE IT!

SUDDENLY AHEAD OF HIM...

A POOL OF WATER! THANKS TO MERKYUT, THE HEAVENLY BIRD WHICH GUIDES ALL TRAVELERS!

AIEEE! IT WAS ONLY A MIRAGE! THIS IS SAND--NOT WATER!

DESPAIR NOT! I WOULD WILLINGLY CHANGE THE SAND TO WATER AGAIN FOR A SMALL PRICE--YOUR SHADOW!

WHO SPEAKS? WHO BARTERS WITH ME FOR MY LIFE?

IT IS I--SHATHAN THE ETERNAL! MASTER OF DIS, RULER OF THE PSYCHO-MATTER WORLDS! DO YOU SELL ME YOUR SHADOW--YES OR NO?

M-MY LIFE FOR MY SHADOW? YES--YES! TAKE IT--BUT GIVE ME WATER!

SO BE IT! YOUR SHADOW BELONGS TO ME! NOW--DRINK!

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SHADOW UPON THE HOT SANDS OF THE DESERT! ONLY THE PARCHED BANDIT, SLURPING UP WATER...

I TOO SHALL LIVE ON EARTH! WITH ENOUGH HUMAN SHADOWS I SHALL KNOW LIFE HERE AS I HAVE KNOWN IT FOR ALL ETERNITY IN DIS, LAND OF EVIL!

I WILL LIVE!

SOME DAYS LATER IN FRANCE, SPELUNKER ANDRE VOISIN FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED BY A CAVE-IN, WHEN SUDDENLY...

HELP! HELP! GET ME OUT OF HERE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! CAN'T ANYONE HEAR ME?

I ANSWER YOUR CALL! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LIFE--FOR A PRICE!

HUH? WHO'S THERE? OH, WHAT DOES IT MATTER! I'LL SELL YOU ANYTHING IF YOU'LL SAVE ME--EVEN MY SOUL!

YOUR SOUL IS OF NO USE TO ME--BUT YOUR SHADOW IS! AND SINCE THE SELLING PRICE IS AGREEABLE--

GO FREE!

IN AFRICA, WORLD-RENOWNED BIG GAME HUNTER OLIVE MORELL FACES A MADDENED ELEPHANT WHEN...

MY GUN--EMPTY! MY LIFE--IN DANGER!

I CAN PUT A BULLET IN YOUR GUN--IF YOU'LL SELL ME YOUR SHADOW!

MY LIFE IS PRICELESS--MY SHADOW VALUELESS! GIVE ME THAT BULLET!

BLAM!

GOT IT--JUST IN TIME! WHAT A LIFE-SAVER!

FALLING FORTY STORIES! MY LIFE'S NOT WORTH A--

HEARING THINGS! MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND! BUT WHAT CAN I LOSE?

HE LANDED AS LIGHTLY AS A FEATHER! WHAT A LUCKY GUY! HE MUST HAVE BEEN SAVED BY A SUDDEN UP-DRAFT OF WIND!

EVEN AS DETECTIVE CAPTAIN JIM CORRIGAN RETURNS TO HIS POLICE CAR, A VOICE WHISPERS WITHIN HIM...

IT WAS NO WIND, J.M! LOOK AGAIN AT THAT WINDOW-WASHER! YOU WERE SO EXCITED YOU NEVER NOTICED THAT...

NEVER NOTICED WHAT? OHHH I SEE!

IS IT WORTH YOUR SHADOW?

YES! YES! TAKE MY SHADOW-- GIVE ME MY LIFE!

HE HAS NO SHADOW!

IT DISAPPEARED-- EVEN AS HE FELL! THIS IS A JOB FOR THE SPECTRE!

I SENSE AN EVIL AURA DEEP INSIDE THAT MAN! I MUST FOLLOW HIM-- DISCOVER WHAT ALIEN AND MYSTERIOUS FORCES ARE AT WORK HERE ON EARTH!

INVISIBLE TO ALL EYES, HE STALKS THE [illegible]...

I'M BEING GRIPPED BY SOME FORM OF ECTO-PLASMIC MAGNETISM! IT'S DRAWING ME TO THAT WINDOW-WASHER! I--AM POWERLESS-- TO STOP IT!

NEVER ENCOUNTERED AN EERIE FORCE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE!

AS SPIRIT DUELS WITH [illegible], UNNATURAL FORCES [illegible] GATHERING EXPLOSIVE PRESSURE UNTIL...

THE MISSING SHADOW-- EMITTING EVIL ENERGY BUILDING IN FRIGHTFUL FURY!

THE PSYCHIC DETONATION IS HURLING ME COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE--

WHIRLED BEYOND INTO PLANES OF EXISTENCE THAT HAVE NO COUNTER-PART ON *EARTH*, THE *DISEMBODIED* *DETECTIVE* FINDS *GATEWAY CITY* GONE AND IN ITS PLACE A BARREN, BAREFUL LAND...

WITH MY EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS--I CAN FEEL THE SHEER EVIL OF THIS PLACE BEATING AGAINST ME WITH OVERWHELMING FORCE!

REACTING TOWARD HIM, THEIR EMPTY EYES ALIGHT WITH EVIL, COME THE DEMONIAC DENIZENS OF THIS ELDRITCH WORLD...

I HAVE NO NEED TO FEAR THESE CREATURES! THEIR WEAPONS CANNOT HARM MY DISCARNATE BODY!

BUT--AS THE FIRST FLAIL IS FLUNG...

IT'S UNCANNY! MY BODY-- ON THIS WORLD-- IS RACKED WITH PAIN!

CAN THE SPECTRE SURVIVE IN THIS [illegible] WORLD? WHAT TERRIBLE ENTITY IS DIRECTING THE [illegible] AND WHY?

BEYOND THE SINISTER BARRIER

PART 2

AND OUR WEAPONS CAN DESTROY YOU BECAUSE THEY--LIKE US--ARE OF THE SAME STRUCTURE AS YOUR BODY!
BE DRIVEN FROM HIS SPIRIT SHAPE!
IN THIS WORLD OF DIS WE ARE ALL NON-MATTER-- JUST AS YOU ARE, SPECTRE!

THE ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE TERRIBLE & THE DIRECTOR IS A BRIGHTER! HE, EYES AND ALL, TEARING AT THE HUMANOID FIBERS INTO THE DEMONIC RHYTHM OF THE WINDY WORLDS...

THE ABOMINATIONS OF ALL TIME ARE HERE! THESE FIENDS ARE THE LIVING INCARNATION OF EVERY EVIL KNOWN TO MAN!

THIS EVIL IS SEEKING TO ESCAPE FROM THE WORLD OF DIS--INTO EARTH! BUT WHY? AND WHO CAN BE BEHIND IT?

STRUGGLE AS HE WILL THE DEMONS ARE TOO MANY IN NUMBER FOR THE *DISCARNATE* DETECTIVE! INDIVIDUALLY IMBUED WITH POWERS EQUAL ALMOST TO HIS OWN, THEY ATTACK SAVAGELY, FURIOUSLY...

I SENSE ALSO THAT I AM THE ONLY THING ON *EARTH* WHO CAN PREVENT THIS INVASION OF EVIL! I WAS LURED HERE--TO BE DESTROYED! TO CLEAR THE PATH FOR--

WHAT...?

JOK!

I HAVE ONE TRICK STILL IN RESERVE! IF THAT FAILS ME ON THIS WORLD--BUT NO! I MUST *NOT* FA-!

I AM NOT BOUND BY ORDINARY LAWS! I CAN MAKE MYSELF AS LARGE AS THE VERY UNIVERSE!

I'LL GROW UNTIL I BECOME SO NEBULOUS,

...THAT THE WEAPONS OF THE DEMONS IN THE GAPS BETWEEN THE SPACES OF THE ATOMS AND CAN MAKE UP MY BODY!

NOW HIS PSYCHO-MATTER BODY IS HUNDREDS --THOUSANDS-- MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS LARGE! COMETS--SUNS--GALAXIES--PASS HARMLESSLY THROUGH HIS SUPER-GIANT SHAPE..

I MUST CONCENTRATE A... THE FLOATING PARTICL... SUBSTANCE TO ...SELVES BACK ON THE EARTH... MY ORIGIN!

...HAT MOMENT THE ... OF THE SPIRIT ... IN DEEP SPACE ... MATTER IS ON EARTH... ...MAY ALREADY ... WHERE THE FOG-HORNS BLOW... ...SOUND...

THAT'S ODD! THE FOGHORNS SEEM TO BE ... AS ... ...SOUNDS--TO ME!

THE PSYCHIC EARS OF THE SPIRIT SLEUTH MAKE SENSE OF THOSE BLARING HORNS NEAR THEM AS WORDS...

YOU ARE PUZZLED *SPECTRE*! SHAKEN BY WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED! KNOW YOU THAT THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE ABROAD ON EARTH! NOT LONG AGO *AZMODUS* SOUGHT TO UNLEASH UNIVERSAL WICKEDNESS--BUT YOU STOPPED HIM!

NOW SHATHAN THE ETERNAL SEEKS TO RIP THE SINISTER BARRIER BETWEEN THE WORLD OF DIS AND EARTH! ALREADY HE HAS SOUGHT TO DESTROY YOU, FOR HE KNOWS THAT THROUGH YOU MUST BE FOUGHT THE COMING BATTLE OF GOOD--AND EVIL!

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO ELIMINATE TIME, TO ALLY YOURSELF TO ITS STEADY FLOW! GO BACK NOW-- TO THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF ALL THINGS, AND KNOW FROM WHENCE THIS SHATHAN SPRINGS!

THE SPECTRE POSSESSED THE POWER TO PULSATE HIS SPIRIT FORM, TO MERGE IT WITH THE PULSE OF TIME ITSELF, TO FLOW FORWARD OR BACKWARD IN TIME.

TIME IS--ALWAYS! IN TIME THERE IS NO ACTUAL PAST OR FUTURE. ONLY THE FINITE SENSES OF MAN INVENT SUCH DIFFERENCES, FOR OTHERWISE MAN COULD NOT EXIST! AS I PULSATE, I BECOME A PART OF TIME...

BACKWARD HE FLOWS THROUGH THE STREAM OF AGES AND EONS, A PART OF ALL THAT IS TAKING PLACE, HAS TAKEN PLACE OR WILL TAKE PLACE...

UNTIL HE COMES TO THAT VERY INSTANT IN TIME 12 BILLION YEARS BEFORE, WHEN ALL THAT EXISTS IS THE PRIMAL ATOM -- WAITING BEYOND SPACE -- COSMIC GIGANTIC..

EVERYTHING WHICH IS TO BE IN THE UNIVERSE IS CONTAINED IN THAT ATOM!

THEN OUT OF THE VOID STABS THE CREATIVE FORCE, A BOLT OF SUPER-NORMAL POWER WHICH HURTLES INTO THE COLOSSAL ATOM...

THIS IS THE VERY INSTANT OF CREATION!

MATTER-ENERGY! OUT TO FILL THE VOID OF A NON-EXISTENCE UNIVERSE, EVENTUALLY TO FORM STARS AND PLANETS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS--RUSH THE ATOMIC PARTICLES...

NOTHING COULD EXIST IN THAT INFERNO! ABSOLUTELY--NOTHING! I MUST FLEE BEFORE IT!

FOR EVERY GOOD THERE IS AN--EVIL! FOR HIM WHO IS GOOD--THERE IS SHAITHAN, WHO IS EVIL! AND SO IN THE NETHER WORLDS OF DIS--SHAITHAN RULES!...

"SHAITHAN APPEARED TO THE DEMONS OF DIS, AND IS WORSHIPPED BY THEM! IT IS THAT WORSHIP WHICH GIVES HIM--EXISTENCE!"

AT THIS SAME MOMENT--FOR EVERY ACTON MUST HAVE AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION--ANOTHER UNIVERSE IS FORMED BY IMPLOSION--A NETHER UNIVERSE...

NOW I UNDERSTAND! THUS WAS FORMED THE WORLD OF DIS--EVIL, MALIGNANT, OF PSYCHO-MATTER AS OPPOSED TO TRUE MATTER!

"AS LONG AS THERE IS A BELIEF IN HIM, SHAITHAN EXISTS! HE IS REVERED IN HIS UNIVERSE--AND BEING EVIL, SOUGHT TO BE MASTER OF MORE THAN THE PYSCHO-MATTER COSMOS OF DIS!

"HE WANTS TO DOMINATE THE PHYSICAL-MATTER UNIVERSE--WITH EARTH SERVING AS A STEPPING-STONE FOR HIS CONQUEST! TO BREAK THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE OPPOSITE UNIVERSES HE SENT EVIL MENTAL IMAGES IN THE PAST...!"

"BUT--THE FORCES OF GOOD WERE NOT ALONE! THAT MEN ACTING UP TO GOOD'S WAY OF GROWTH...

MOSES... AKHNATEN... BUDDHA... MOHAMMED...

"SLOWLY THOSE POWERS OF GOOD PUSHED BACK THE EVIL! HAD THEY NOT--GOOD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BELIEVED IN--AND SO WOULD HAVE CEASED TO EXIST...

"CENTURIES LATER, SHATHAN THE ETERNAL SENT HIS PERSONALLY TRAINED DEPUTY--AZMODUS--INTO EARTH TO PAVE THE WAY FOR HIS OWN APPEARANCE...

"AZMODUS CAME CLOSE TO SUCCEEDING BUT I DEFEATED HIM, PLACING HIM IN NO-TIME AND NO-SPACE..."

HERE YOU SHALL REMAIN FOR ALL INFINITY--POWERLESS TO WORK YOUR EVIL WILL ON HUMAN OR SPIRIT-BEING EVER AGAIN!

I HAVE LOST--BUT YOU HAVE NOT WON, SPECTRE, AS YOU SHALL LEARN WHEN MY SINISTER SCHEME UNFOLDS ON EARTH--SOON--VERY SOON...

"I COULD NOT HEAR HIS LAST THOUGHT--UNTIL NOW, AS THE ESSENCE OF GOODNESS SURGES THROUGH ME, OPENING THE DOORWAYS OF PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE.

THE DIRECTOR PLAN OF AZMODUS IS NOW EXPOSED TO THE EYES OF THE SPECTRE...

AZMODUS SET EERIE FORCES IN MOTION WHICH PERMITTED HIS MASTER SHATHAN TO BREAK THROUGH THE SINISTER BARRIER AND ENTER EARTH! BY SECURING THE SHADOWS OF KILLING VICTIMS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH AND IMPRISONING THEM IN THE BODIES OF THEIR FORMER OWNERS, HE HAS CREATED A LOYAL FOLLOWING OF EARTH PEOPLE!

BY BELIEVING IN SHATHAN, HIS SUBJECTS CAUSE HIM TO EXIST ON EARTH! HE WILL GROW MORE POWERFUL--AND BLOT OUT THE BELIEF IN GOOD! THEN ONLY EVIL WILL DOMINATE THE WORLD..

I ALONE--AS THE DEPUTY OF GOOD--AS AZMODUS WAS THE DEPUTY OF SHATHAN--CAN PREVENT THIS! IT IS MY DUTY--PERHAPS EVEN THE VERY REASON WHY THE SPECTRE WAS BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE YEARS AGO..

MOMENTARILY EXHAUSTED BY HIS TRIP THROUGH TIME AND THE NETHER UNIVERSE OF OA, THE SPIRIT SLEUTH RETURNS INTO THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN, JUST AS...

I MUST REFLECT ON WHAT I'VE LEARNED--DEVISE A PLAN OF ATTACK...

THE DEAD ARE RISEN TO THE FACT THAT DETECTIVE CAPTAIN CORRIGAN IS A MAN OF EXTRAORDINARY LAW AND ORDER

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME CORRIGAN!

TU EACH HIS CAN : TO [illegible] OF THE [illegible] CITY-HALL, IS A CONCERN THAT CONCERNS THE WELL BEING OF EVERY CITIZEN OF BRIGHT HAVENS...

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!

YOU'RE THE BRAINS BEHIND THE WAREHOUSE ROBBERIES GANG-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THEM--IN JAIL...

JUMP

THERE'S THE CLINCHER!

SK!

SO INTENT IS JIM CORRIGAN ON HIS OWN BATTLE OF GOOD OVER EVIL THAT HE DOES NOT HEAR THE FAINT SNICK OF PARTING ELEVATOR CABLES..

KRAKK!

ONLY THE SPECTRE SENSES THE RAW EVIL SURROUNDING THE ELEVATOR AS IT STARTS TO LONG FALL TO DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON THE GROUND FAR BELOW

I SENSE THE EVIL OF SHATHAN THE ETERNAL! HE BROKE THE CABLE...

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THE DISCARDMATE ELECTRIC-TIME FLOWS OUT OF THE CAR, DROPS DOWN-HARD IN S HAND LIFTING TO CATCH AND CRADLE THE FALLING ELEVATOR..

WHY SHOULD THE *EVIL ONE* CONCERN HIMSELF WITH KILLING JIM CORRIGAN? SURELY, HE POSES NO THREAT TO *SHATHAN!*

SUDDENLY HE [illegible] CONCERNING THE CAR..

I'LL SAVE JIM'S LIFE--AND THAT OF THE CROOK--! BUT IF ONLY I KNEW WHY *SHATHAN* ATTACKED THEM! IT MIGHT ENABLE ME TO KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THERE IS NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IN THE MIND OF THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN, WHO MAKES THE POLICE ROUNDS WITH JIM CORRIGAN NEXT DAY...

GET ME JUST A LITTLE CLOSER-- SO I CAN JUMP!

MADE IT! I'VE GOT A GOOD GRIP ON HIM!

LEGGO! OR--I'LL CR-CRASH!

AS THE CAR SLAMS INTO A BRIDGE-GUARD RAIL...

CRASH!

GOT YOU!

AT THAT INSTANT--THE MOON COLLAPSES...

SMATHAN HAS STRUCK AGAIN! IT WAS HIS FORCE THAT SHATTERED THE BRIDGE--!

THE PSYCHIC SHOCK OF THE SPIRIT SLEUTH HAS SO DRAIN THAT HE CANNOT MOVE AS SMATHAN DESTROYS THE BRIDGE TO THE SPECTRE HEADQUARTERS!...

OF COURSE! SMATHAN IS KEEPING ME BUSY--TO GIVE HIMSELF TIME TO ASSEMBLE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SHADOWS HE OWNS! WHEN THEY BEGIN WORSHIPPING HIM AND BELIEVE IN HIM--EVIL FORCES WILL BE SET IN MOTION TO ENABLE HIM TO DOMINATE THIS WORLD!

I MUST MOVE NOW TO STOP HIM! WITH PARA-NORMAL SENSES I WILL TRACK DOWN SMATHAN AND HIS WORSHIPPERS!

BUT--WILL THE MIGHTY SPECTRE BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE EVIL ONE--WHEN THEY MEET IN COMBAT? JUST WHO ARE THE POWERS OF THE SPECTRE--BUT JUST AS MIGHTY ARE THOSE OF SMATHAN THE ETERNAL!

BEYOND the SINISTER BARRIER

PART 3

I AM—TOO LATE! SHATHAN IS ON EARTH!

THE CHILL THAT KNOWS NO LIVING HOUSE

IN A LONG-FORGOTTEN TEMPLE GATHER THE SHADOW-SELLERS TO WORSHIP SHATHAN! THEIR VOICES ARE RAISED IN AN ANCIENT CHORUS—A CHANT THAT COMPELS THE PRESENCE OF SHATHAN—A PAEAN THAT SHATTERS THE BARRIERS BETWEEN DIS AND EARTH!—A SONG WHOSE VERY EVIL ALERTS THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE TO ITS EXISTENCE!

SLOWLY FORMS, THAT CAN BRING FROM THE NETHER WORLDS! SLOWLY--AS THE VOICES OF HIS FOLLOWERS RISE IN PEANS OF EXULTATION...

[illegible] SUPER INJECTION! FOR [illegible] SPIRIT SLEUTH [illegible] SLOWLY INTO ANCIENT EVIL [illegible] CURVING ONLY IN TRUTH...

THE WORSHIP OF MY FOLLOWERS ON EARTH, THOSE WHO SOLD ME THEIR SHADOWS--HAS BROKEN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS!

NGUNGUTHU

[illegible] SPECTRE, [illegible] SPECTRE [illegible] HUNTING FALCON...

YOU CAN DO NOTHING AGAINST ME, SPECTRE! WHAT MATTERS NOW IS NOT YOUR FAILURE BUT MY TRIUMPH!

DESPERATELY, FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS LEAPING INTO A BATTLE MORE DEADLY THAN ANY HE HAS EVER FOUGHT, THE SPIRIT SLEUTH RAMS INTO HIS QUARRY...

HE'S GOING THROUGH THE STONE OF THE TEMPLE WALL!

HA! HA! BEING OF PSYCHO-MATTER LIKE YOU, I AM NOT AFFECTED BY MATERIAL THINGS!

IN THAT CASE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL MY PSYCHO-FIST!

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEEN STRUCK! I--DO NOT LIKE IT!

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EVEN AS HE REELS BACK, SHAITHAN SENDS A MENTAL COMMAND TO HIS FOLLOWERS TO SING AGAIN...

I CAN SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF YOUR BLOW, THANKS TO MY WORSHIPPERS! AND AS THEIR CHANT GIVES ME EXTRA STRENGTH AND POWER...

I'LL BEAT YOU INTO INSENSI-BILITY!

GOT TO GET HIM AWAY FROM THOSE SHADOW-SLAVES-- OR THEY'LL EVEN-TUALLY MAKE HIM STRONGER THAN I AM!

GRIPPING HIS FOE, THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN ROCKETS SPACEWARD...

ONLY BY TAKING HIM FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM HIS FOLLOWERS WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO DEFEAT HIM!

THEN--AS THE SPECTRE SUDDENLY UNLEASHES A SAVAGE BLOW...

YOU MISSED!

BUT THAT BLOW HAS NOT ENDED! FOR WITH SPEED BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHEN-SION, THAT AWESOME PSYCHO-MATTER FIST HURTLES ON AND ON ACROSS THE HUNDREDS OF BILLION-LIGHT-YEARS OF THE UNIVERSE...

TO BE TURN[illegible]-TIME IS CLOSED-- AND BUT THE SPECTRE OF [illegible]

KWOWEE

TIRELESS DAZES THE GIANT ONE CRAVED WITH HUNGER, WHO TWISTS, TURNS AND PULLS TO FALL INTO THE NOTHING, FOR FEAR OF SOL LOOMS NEAR...

ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO GET RID OF YOU, SPECTRE--AND THIS ENTIRE MATTER UNIVERSE WILL BACKSHIP ONLY ME!

EVEN THE 25 MILLION DEGREE HEAT OF THE SUN CANNOT HARM HIM AS I'D HOPED! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN AFFECT HIM! AND YET--

BUT IF THE [illegible] FORCES [illegible] I MUST USE THE FORCES OF GOOD... ONE OF WHICH IS TIME THAT HEALS ALL WOUNDS!

YET SHATTAM IS NOT ALL-KNOWING, THOUGH HE SEEMINGLY IS ALL-POWERFUL! HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS MATTER UNIVERSE AS HE IS WITH HIS OWN WORLD OF DIS! THERGIN LIES MY ONLY HOPE OF VICTORY!

SUDDENLY--THE SPIRIT SLEUTH CHANGES THE PULSATIONS OF HIS PSYCHIC-- MATTER BODY, DRAWING SHATTAM INTO THAT SAME VIBRATORY FIELD...

I SHALL TAKE HIM BACK IN TIME WITH ME, TO THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE EVENTS ON EARTH! NOT KNOWING ABOUT THESE AWESOME DISASTERS--HE WILL BE UNPREPARED FOR THEM!

GRIPPING THE DEMON DICTATES OF DIS, THE SPECTRE DRIVES DOWNWARD OVER THE SOVIET UNION ON THE 30TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1961...

SHATHAN ISN'T AWARE OF IT.. BUT THE RUSSIANS ARE ABOUT TO DETONATE A 57-MEGATON THERMO-NUCLEAR BOMB, THE LARGEST MAN MADE EXPLOSION IN HISTORY!

HE NOW, IN HIS DOWNWARD DRIVE TOWARD THE NUCLEAR INFERNO..

SUCH A RELEASE OF ENERGY SHOULD-- ANNIHILATE HIM!

KA-BOOM!

YET EVEN THAT TERRIFYING BLAST DOES NO MORE THAN SHAKE UP SHATHAN...

BACKWARD THROUGH TIME FLIES THE SPIRIT SLAYTON WITH HIS EERIE ENEMY.. TO THE DAY OF JUNE 30, 1908-- AS A GREAT FIREBALL HURLS DOWN FROM THE SKY NEAR THE TUNGUSKA RIVER...

GOT TO TRY ANOTHER DISASTER-- AND QUICKLY, BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS STRENGTH!

IN A MOMENT THAT MYSTERIOUS FIREBALL IS GOING TO FLY TO PIECES IN AN EXPLOSION SO GREAT IT WILL BE HEARD 600 MILES AWAY!

EVEN IF THE [illegible] NO MAN IS ABLE TO EX-PLAIN THAT THIS MY-STER-OUS EXPLOSION WAS OR WHERE THE FIRE BALL CAME FROM! SOME BELIEVE IT WAS A SPACESHIP FROM ANOTHER WORLD THAT BLEW UP IN OUR AT-MOSPHERE OTHERS THEORIZE OUR UNIVERSE WAS HIT BY A CHUNK OF ANTI-MATTER...

KLAH-ROOM!

THOUGH SCIENTISTS [illegible] SOME SUCH THEORY [illegible] THEIR THEORIES [illegible] STILL CURIOUS AND [illegible] THE [illegible]

THERE WAS AN EVEN MORE DEAD-LY EXPLOSION--A QUARTER OF A CEN-TURY BEFORE! PER-HAPS THAT WILL OVER, COME HIM!

HOW ABOVE THE ISLAND OF KRAKATOA ON THAT FATEFUL DAY OF AUGUST 27, 1883...

...INTO THE RED GLARE AND BUBBLING LAVA OF THAT ERUPTION HE HURLS HIM, EVEN AS THE ENTIRE ISLAND ERUPTS FROM THE SEA!...

THE ISLAND WAS BLOWN TO BITS, 13 SQUARE MILES OF LAND DISAPPEARING FOREVER IN THE BLAST! A COLUMN OF DUST AND STONES WAS BLOWN 17 MILES INTO THE AIR!

YET EVEN NOW SOMETHING IS ALIVE, SURVIVOR OF THE GREATEST EXPLOSION OF ITS TYPE EVER RECORDED! IT HAS HEARD BE-YOND MILES AWAY! IT KILLED BE-YOND PEOPLE! IT CAUSED TIDAL WAVES AS FAR AWAY AS ENGLAND!...

I HAVE ONE LAST-DITCH HOPE! IF THAT FAILS--NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!

BACK--BACK--BACK THROUGH TIME RACES THE *SPIRIT SLEUTH* WITH HIS OCCULT OPPONENT--UNTIL THE STRUGGLING SHADES COME AT LAST TO THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS...

I'VE BROUGHT HIM TO THE *PRIMAL ATOM*! SURELY HERE THERE WILL BE A RELEASE OF ENERGY TITANIC ENOUGH TO BLAST HIS PSYCHO—MATTER BODY!

ONCE AGAIN--AS THE CREATIVE FORCE STABS DEEP INTO THE ATOM, DEEP ALSO DOES *THE SPECTRE* TOSS *SHATHAN*...

THERE IT GOES! I MUST RACE THAT EXPANDING DETONATION THROUGH TIME ITSELF SO AS NOT TO BE OVER-TAKEN BY IT!

IN THAT MOST AWESOME OF ALL ENERGY EXPLOSIONS, THE ESSENCE OF *SHATHAN THE ETERNAL* IS HURLED OUTWARD--TO BE SPREAD ACROSS THE VAST COSMOS AND THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE FOR ALL INFINITY...

HE CAN NEVER REFORM HIMSELF, FOR HE WILL ALWAYS BE SPEEDING OUTWARD AT MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES PER SECOND--THE SPEED OF THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE!

NOW *THE SPECTRE* RETURNS TO THE ANCIENT TEMPLE, TO FIND THAT WITH THE EXISTENCE—ELIMINATION OF *SHATHAN*, SHADOWS HAVE REJOINED THE WORSHIPPERS...

I'LL BRING YOU ALL BACK TO YOUR HOMES! YOUR TROUBLES AND FEARS ARE OVER! *GOOD* HAS WON OUT OVER *EVIL*!

AS THE LAST SHADOW VICTIM IS RETURNED..

THANKS, *SPECTRE*-- AND FAREWELL!

I FEEL PERIL MENACING MY PHYSICAL SELF--- *JIM CORRIGAN!* I MUST GET TO HIM AT ONCE!

BUT AS THE *SPIRIT SLEUTH* DROPS DOWN OVER *GATEWAY CITY*, HE SEES...

THE PERIL IS PAST! JIM HAS THINGS WELL UNDER CONTROL!

SOK!

AS JIM SAVED THE CITY FROM LAWLESS MEN, SO I SAVED THE WORLD FROM AN EVIL DEMON! TOGETHER, WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR UNENDING EFFORTS TO MAKE EARTH AND ITS UNIVERSE SAFE FROM **ANY** THREAT!

END

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES:

This month we continue with our program of reprinting the entire adventures of the Legion of Super-Heroes in chronological order with their third and fourth appearances. Last issue we ran their first two stories, both from ADVENTURE COMICS, but by the time these two were written then-Superman editor Mort Weisinger clearly had the idea of featuring the Legionnaires as part of his growing Superman family of characters. These "family" members included many concepts that went from one magazine to another, always guest-starring as a change of pace. Long time comics fans will remember the Superman Emergency Squad, the Bizarros, the Superman (and Superboy) Revenge Squad, and on and on for an endless list. Of them all, only the Legion went onto prominence.

The costumes of the Legionnaires had almost settled into their "permanent" versions by "The Three Super-Heroes", a *Supergirl* story first featured in ACTION COMICS #267 (August, 1960)... but not quite. Minor differences in coloration and styling were still present in all three.

The most startling discrepancy, however, is the fact that the Legionnaires introduce themselves as the *children* of the original Legionnaires who initiated Superboy into their club. Legion fans regard this as either a typo or a white lie on the Legionnaires' part. There is also a school of thought that dates this story before Superboy's induction, based on a complex series of cross-references that we won't go into.

Three more members are introduced here for the first time, Chameleon Boy and Colossal Boy exactly as they would appear for years to come and Invisible Kid in a uniform whose coloration would change although the styling would not.

The tunnel Supergirl digs was featured again in later stories, and Supergirl did indeed return the following year for another try at membership—at which time she was accepted.

Our other selection, "The Army Of Living Kryptonite Men" from SUPERBOY #86 (January, 1961), features only one Legionnaire, but qualifies as a Legion story because it is an important set-up for Luthor battling the Legion years later. Interestingly, it also foreshadows the existence of a Legion of Super-Villains, another creation of later years.

Many stories in the various Superman family magazines featured stories with walk-ons by the Legionnaires in the next few years. They were similar to this one in that the Legionnaire had no direct involvement in the plot, except to come running in at the end to solve the problem. For example, there were at least three or four stories in which various Legionnaires came back through time to impersonate either Superboy or Clark Kent in order to save his secret identity by having the two personas appear together. In the interests of getting right to the essence of the Legion chronicles, we have decided to omit all those stories from our reprintings, using as our criteria only those stories that feature Legionnaires using their powers in furtherance of the plot, and stories where Legionnaires appear for more than a panel or three.

This "phase" of the Legion's development lasted another couple of years. Additional stories (which we'll see over the next five months) featured the introduction of new members and new elements to the Legion myth, but always with them in a secondary role to the Superman family super-stars. It wasn't until ADVENTURE COMICS #300 that they got their own series. —Paul Levitz

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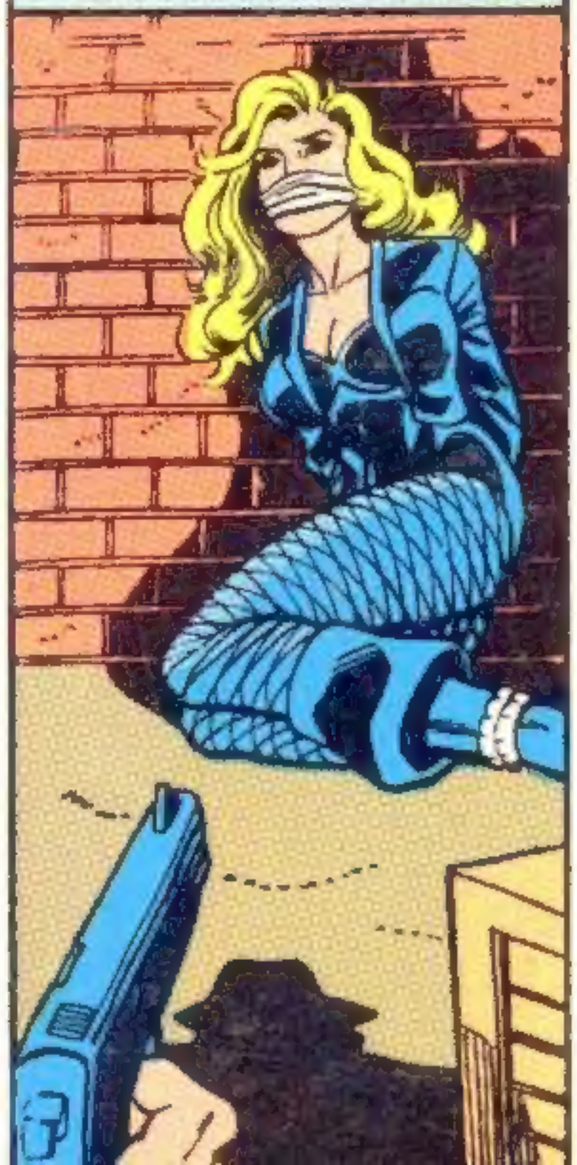

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